FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 FEBRUARY 1985

Lebanon

IDF Operation — The IDF killed one "terrorist" and wounded two others when troops marched into four villages in southern Lebanon on 21 February, Jerusalem radio reported. IDF troops later left the villages, the radio added. In one of the villages, 'Arab Salim, the IDF expelled 38 inhabitants for involvement in hostile "terrorist" activities, according to Jerusalem television. Senior IDF officers told Jerusalem radio that operations in "hostile" southern Lebanese villages will continue.

Security — While communist and socialist gunmen roam the streets, the Lebanese Army has set up barricades near the U.S. Embassy and instituted patrols in West Beirut to prevent any security disruptions, Voice of Lebanon radio announced.

Israel

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres discussed bilateral relations and Middle East developments during two meetings with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in Bucharest on 21 February, AGERPRES reported. Peres asked Ceausescu to try to improve PRC-Israeli relations and "blunt the edge" of USSR "hostility" so that Israel can consider a UN-sponsored Middle East conference, according to *THE JERUSALEM POST*.

In what is viewed as an Egyptian "gesture," Energy Minister Moshe Shahal has been invited to pay an official visit to Egypt next week, Jerusalem television announced. This is the first visit by an Israeli minister "in a long time," the television noted.

Algeria-Morocco Summit

Algeria and Morocco have decided to hold a two-country summit to solve the Western Sahara issue, KUNA reported citing diplomatic sources in Paris.

King Fahd's U.S. Visit

While a 17 February article in *AL-JAZIRAH* described King Fahd's U.S. talks as achieving "extraordinary results," KUNA reports that the London magazine *AL-TADAMUN* opined that King Fahd came out of his meetings with U.S. officials with the impression that there was still a need to prepare for "confrontation" with Israel.

Pakistan

At least 1,500 people, including opposition leaders, have been detained in Sind Province as a "precautionary" measure to ensure peaceful polling in the 25 February general election according to Karachi police, AFP reported. Meanwhile, President Ziaul Haq has promulgated an ordinance empowering any person performing election duties or Armed Forces personnel with the powers of a first class magistrate concerning offenses under the Representation of Peoples Act, Karachi radio announced.

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'Arafat Urges Armed Struggle, Political Efforts

JN211748 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has affirmed that the political efforts aimed at regaining the occupied Arab territories will not succeed if they are not accompanied by an escalation in the armed struggle against the Zionist entity.

In press statements published in Cairo, Brother Abu 'Ammar called for a calculated link between armed and political struggles against the Zionist occupation of Arab territories. Abu 'Ammar said that the PLO's political initiative is aimed at creating an appropriate international climate for establishing the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights, including their right to return, their right to self-determination, and their right to establish an independent state on their national soil. Brother Abu 'Ammar explained that military pressure on the Zionist entity must be an escalation of armed struggle in the occupied Arab territories, coupled with a mobilization of Arab military and economic capabilities to achieve liberation.

'Arafat Adviser Praises King Fahd's Efforts

PM201227 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Feb 85 pp 1,2

[Article by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Hani al-Hasan: King Fahd Realized Important Achievement; We Thank Him for Defending Palestinian Cause"]

[Excerpt] Riyadh — Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, asserted in a telephone conversation with *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* yesterday in Tunis that the joint Saudi-U.S. statement issued following the conclusion of Saudi monarch King Fahd's U.S. visit "is an important achievement for breaking the deadlock in the Middle East problem, since it makes a positive reference to the Fes summit. We greatly appreciate his majesty's strong adherence to the Fes summit resolutions, which enjoy Arab consensus."

He added: "The more important achievement is King Fahd's success in reactivating the Middle East problem when Israel and the United States were trying to prevent its inclusion on this year's agenda. The problem was the sixth topic on their agenda. We are waiting for the king's return so that we can hear the results he has achieved. We thank him in advance for his interest in the Palestinian problem and his insistence on the Arab stands, which were manifest in the statement. This is what we have long expected; we have confidence in the Kingdom's great weight."

Regarding the "formula" reached in the recent Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on the question of Palestinian representation and the independent Palestinian state, Hani al-Hasan said: We laid the basis for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian move; we did not propose a Jordanian-Palestinian initiative. The principles we laid down, which stem from PNC resolutions and the Fes summit, are intended for a Jordanian-Palestinian move. If this move bears fruit and develops into an initiative, then we will have to "Arabize" this stand. King Husayn has carried these principles to our brothers in Algeria, and they will gradually be put to all the Arab countries. Therefore, the principles we have laid down after long and difficult discussions incorporate the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people within an Arab confederation between Jordan and Palestine. Therefore, the question of a Palestinian state is mentioned equally with the Jordanian state. The same thing applies to the question of representation.

The "document" clearly provides that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; it also provides for a joint Arab delegation in which all the Arab parties are represented, including the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations independently and on equal footing, but within the framework of one single Arab delegation. Unity does not abolish individuality. The mistake that many people make is to forget that we are managing a conflict with the Zionist enemy and not with one another.

He added: This "document," which has embarrassed the Zionists, is proof that the PLO has begun to regain the initiative at the appropriate time. We are determined that the Palestinian and Jordanian people should remain in a state of solidarity and unity.

The joint Jordanian-Palestinian action is an inevitability in view of the future Zionist designs on Transjordan. For this reason we have decided to stay together and, as Jordanians and Palestinians, face the coming stage in a united formation. It is agreed that we reject the idea of an Arab axis, and for this reason our move is aimed at formulating an Arab concept of political and military confrontation at this decisive stage.

Fatah's Al-Hasan Urges Peaceful Solution in Mideast

GF211800 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 21 Feb (WAKH) — Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and director of the Foreign Relations Committee at the PNC, has called for accepting the idea of a peaceful solution to the Arab-Zionist dispute because the international situation is the decisive factor in this dispute. He added that the direction of the dispute requires tactics and flexibility, so it is illogical to wait for the balance of power between the Arabs and Zionist enemy to be corrected because this enemy will not stop its plans.

In a statement to the UAE newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* published today, he opined that the Arab nation is currently experiencing intellectual emptiness and that it needs to be reborn. He termed the Palestinian-Jordanian move as stemming from Arab legitimacy through the Fes summit resolutions and international legitmacy that is represented in the UN resolutions — and not just one resolution.

Al-Hasan went on to say that the transient goal of the Palestinian revolution, on the Arab and the international arenas, is to preserve the vitality of the Palestinian issue. He said that the recent Jordanian-Palestinian agreement falls within the framework of self-preservation, preservation of the vitality of the issue, and exertion of every effort to restore Arab solidarity.

Muragha, PPSF Condemn 'Arafat-Husayn Accord

JN211920 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus —Brother Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary general of the Fatah provisional command, has asserted that the approval of the Amman agreement by 'Arafat's Executive Committee was an inevitable result of the treasonous Amman session that laid the foundation of the so-called formula for the Jordanian-Palestinian move based on King Husayn's initiative. In a statement to the press today, Brother Abu Musa called on the fighting factions and all national forces and personalities opposing 'Arafat's course to quickly form a Palestinian national front to topple 'Arafat and his course.

Brother Abu Musa urged our kinfolk inside and out of the occupied homeland to stand firm in the face of this course and all agreements it concludes with the enemies of our people and nation.

An authoritative source in the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front announced in Damascus today that the statements and agreements made by 'Arafat do not represent our Palestinian revolution. These deviant symbols cannot speak on behalf of our people. The statement issued by the Executive Committee in Tunis only expresses the stand of the deviant clique which placed itself in the ranks of reactionary force hostile to our people. This statement is an attempt to cover their deviations and capitulation.

Democratic Alliance Meets on Husayn-'Arafat Accord

JN211344 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The information bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has stated that the Democratic Alliance, which met in Damascus today at the command level and with the participation of all parties, decided the following: In reply to the statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee, the alliance announces that the goal of agreeing to the Husayn-'Arafat accord, under the pretext of adopting a principled memorandum of understanding, is to peddle the agreement and camouflage its capitulatory nature. Proceeding from this stand, the Democratic Alliance asserts that agreeing to the Amman agreement departs from Palestinian legitimacy, violates the PNC resolutions, and bypasses the authority of all Palestinian leadership councils. The agreement will bind neither the Palestinian people nor the PLO.

Palestinian Communist Party Condemns Accord

JN211741 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus — The Palestinian Communist Party has called for toppling the Husayn-'Arafat agreement and strongly condemned the maneuvers that 'Arafat and his clique are carrying out to negotiate with the Zionist enemy, to abolish the PLO's sole representation of the Palestinian people, and to authorize King Husayn to negotiate with the Zionist occupiers and imperialists.

PLO Radio on Security in Lebanon Refugee Camps

JN212001 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Brothers, we have just received the following: A responsible source in the PLO has stated the following:

The Syrian and Lebanese arenas are witnessing a new wave of suspect actions recently. These suspect moves are accompanied by a flow of statements speaking about the importance of and need for controlling the security of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. All this comes within the framework of suspect justifications and coverups for the mobilization of rancorous campaigns against the Palestinian presence and refugee camps in Lebanon. This exposes the treacherous, hostile intentions aimed not only against the Palestinian people's security in the refugee camps and wherever they are present, but also against the Lebanese people's security and their national cause.

What really attracts attention is that the latest such moves and the instigative statements that ensued were recently made by a number of Lebanese figures, who were supposed to be the friends and allies of the Palestinian revolution, the PLO, and the Palestinian people. The Palestinian revolutionaries stand in the same trench with the Lebanese people's strugglers within the Palestinian and Lebanese joint forces and continue to inflict defeats on the enemy forces; they also force them to retreat and withdraw. We in the PLO have always put up with the injustice to our kinfolk. We have always endeavored not to speak out and to rise above the wounds that inflict daily harm on our strugglers and people. However, recently in Damascus, intensive meetings with several Lebanese figures in an attempt to pressure them and influence their course on the current suspect mobilization campaign against the PLO and our people in the refugee camps in Lebanon; the suspect, flagrant media campaign on the need to control the security of the refugee camps; the fabrication of incidents and events; and the false statements made in the name of the PLO and Fatah in an attempt to create confusion and agitation, have made it impossible to remain silent in the face of this grave sequence of events.

Thus, we must reveal part of what is taking place against our people in the refugee camps and wherever they are present in Lebanon. Those who speak about the security of the refugee camps must realize that this security cannot be established while nationalist elements in these camps are being pursued, arrested, attacked, and later handed over to the Syrian intelligence in Al-Biqa' where the ugliest forms of oppression and torture are practiced . Moreover, the campaigns of detention and arrest that are currently taking place in southern Lebanon and Al-Biqa', which are aimed against our best cadres and officers, are all occurring at the same time by the Syrian regime, its agents, and the Zionist enemy forces and henchmen. This is all taking place at a time when our strugglers alongside the Lebanese nationalist resistance are waging the most glorious resistance and confrontation battles against the Zionist enemy in the occupied south.

We warn again of the gravity and dimensions of what is taking place and is being overtly and covertly planned against our

people's refugee camps, our masses and their valiant revolutionaries, and our Arab people in Lebanon and their sacred cause. At the same time, we remind those who are propagating the Syrian regime's policies that they must clearly remember that this regime responded and adhered to what was agreed on with Murphy and withdrew 12,000 soldiers from the Syrian Army in Lebanon to the Damascus suburb in return for an agreement with the enemy to vacate a number of strategic positions near Damascus.

The PLO is absolutely confident that our valiant Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, who are proudly standing alongside their Palestinian and Lebanese joint forces as they wage our nation's fiercest battle, will not allow the enemies to infiltrate their ranks under any slogan in order to undermine their security, strike at their struggle, and divert their attention from the invaders and their agents.

Arab Group on Iraqi-Iranian War Formed in Moscow

JN211601 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow, 21 Feb (INA) — An Arab group was formed in Moscow today to follow up the actions of the 7-member Arab ministerial committee charged with following Iraqi-Iranian war developments in accordance with the committee's recommendations made at its fifth meeting in Baghdad on 20 January.

The group comprises the ambassadors of Arab countries that are members of the 7-member committee and have diplomatic representation in Moscow. The group is headed by 'Adil al-Jarrah, Kuwaiti ambassador in Moscow and the doyen of the Arab ambassadors in the USSR. The group comprises Moroccan Ambassador 'Abd al-Khaliq al-Qaddhah and Iraqi ambassador Sa'd 'Abd al-Hamid al-Faysal, who will act as the group's rapporteur. In a meeting it held today, the Arab group decided to hold consultations with USSR Foreign Ministry officials on how to contribute to ending the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The Arab group valued the positive USSR stand which seeks to end the war and to settle the conflict through peaceful means.

PLO Radio Details Attack on Zionist Vehicle in Rafah

JN211739 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] In accordance with the revolution command's directives and resolutions to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, the main arena of conflict, a Palestinian military spokesman has stated that a group of our valiant revolutionaries who are operating inside the occupied homeland attacked a Zionist military vehicle 2 days ago while it was passing through the market place in Rafah in the occupied Gaza Strip. The vehicle was burned and all of the occupants, Zionist soldiers, were either killed or wounded. The Zionist enemy radio admitted the attack, but, as usual, did not mention any losses. It said that its forces immediately cordoned off the area, carried out an extensive search, and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of being involved with the operation.

OMAN

UAE President Begins 'Private' Visit to Muscat

GF211034 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Muscat, 21 Feb (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan arrived in Muscat today on a private visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman ied those who received His Highness Shaykh Zayid upon his arrival. The president was also received by Mr Thuwayni ibn Shihab, special representative of Sultan Qabus; Mr 'Umar al-Zawawi, the Sultan's adviser; Mr Badr ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib, interior minister; and a number of civilian and military officials.

Concludes Visit, Departs

GF211436 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Excerpt] UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today left the country at the conclusion of a 1-day private visit to the Sultanate. He was seen off by His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id had held talks with his Brother UAE President His Highness Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan focusing on relations between the two fraternal countries and new developments in the region including the Iraq-Iran war. The two leaders also reviewed Arab and international issues in addition to issues of common interest. The officials on both sides said that there was unanimous agreement on the issues that were discussed during the discussions.

Information Cooperation Program Signed With Egypt

NC211343 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Muscat, 21 Feb (MENA) — A final session of talks was held here today between Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who is currently visiting Muscat, and Omani Information Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas. A joint information working program for the current year was signed during the talks, the implementation of which will start on 1 March. It is based on the 1983 Egyptian-Omani Information Cooperation Protocol signed in Muscat.

In a statement to MENA in Muscat, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that great strides had been made in the past year in the fields of joint television and radio production as well as in other media, such as the press and the Middle East News Agency. He added that agreement was reached on producing more joint programs, in addition to documentaries, to reflect the two countries' civilization and culture and showing how Egyptian and Omani citizens work to build a brighter future for their two countries and for the entire Arab nation. He said that agreement was also reached on producing joint radio programs, particularly programs for the masses that are very popular within the Arab nation.

He added that a delegation from the Egyptian Public Information Authority will arrive in Muscat to lay the bases for information cooperation in the domestic arena, particularly in printed material, material for children, and joint publications.

British Chief of Staff Meets Deputy Premier

GF211648 Doha QNA in Arabic 1150 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Muscat, 21 Feb (QNA) — Fahar ibn Taymur Al Bu Sa'id, Omani deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, today met with British Chief of Staff Field Marshal Sir Edwin Brammel, and his accompanying military delegation currently visiting Muscat.

During the meeting, bilateral relations and issues of common concern were discussed. Earlier the British chief of staff met with Staff Major General Hasan ibn Ihsan ibn Nasib, under secretary at the Defense Ministry, and a number of military officials of the Sultanate.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Singapore

GF211524 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Feb 85

["Text" of statement issued by the Omani and Singapore Foreign Ministries — date not given]

[Text] At the desire of the Governments of the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Singapore to develop friendly relations between each other and following an agreement reached with regard to cementing cooperation on the bases of the principles of mutual respect, national sovereignty, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs together with the attainment of equal rights, it has been decided to establish official diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of Thursday, 21 February 1985. The governments of the two countries express the hope that the establishment of diplomatic relations will lead to serving each other's interests and attaining joint cooperation.

QATAR

Turkish Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets With Amir

TA211804 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu, who is on an official visit to Qatar, was received by Qatar Amir Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. The ministers of foreign affairs and defense were also present during the meeting. Talks focused on bilateral relations, the promotion of mutual trade, the Iran-Iraq war, and the latest developments in the Middle East.

In a statement on his arrival in Doha, Halefoglu said Turkey wants to develop its relations with the Gulf countries. ANATOLIA AGENCY reports that he added that Turkey wants to strengthen its political relations, economic ties, and joint economic ventures with the Gulf countries.

Halefoglu recalled that Turkey had unilaterally lifted visa requirements for citizens of the Gulf countries and enacted a new law allowing them to buy property in Turkey. He concluded by calling on the Gulf countries to take advantage of Turkey's investment prospects.

Halefoglu will hold a news conference in Doha tomorrow before leaving for the United Arab Emirates on Saturday [23 February].

Amir Receives King Fahd's Message

GF211030 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Doha, 21 Feb (WAKH) — Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia on the results of his majesty's visit to the United States and his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan last week.

The message was delivered by Mr Ibrahim al-'Anqari, Saudi minister of municipal and rural affairs, during his audience with Shaykh Khalifah in Doha today. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; Mr Khalid Muhammad al-Mani', Qatari health minister; and Mr 'Abd al-Muhsin Sulayman al-Zayid, Saudi ambassador in Doha.

Mr Al-'Anqari left Doha for home after a short visit to the State of Qatar within a tour of a number of the GCC states.

SAUDI ARABIA

Dailies Assess Results of Fahd-Reagan Talks

'UKAZ Lauds Fahd's Stand

PM211111 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 16 Feb 85 p 3

[Unattributed "political editor" article: "The Kingdom Shoulders Its Universal Responsibility"]

[Text] The historic visit to Washington of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was the focus of great interest on all Arab and international levels — an interest the like of which no official's visit to Washington has previously enjoyed.

Probably the main reason for this great interest is that His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz enjoys a worldwide respect and international status thanks to the successful policies he pursues and to his contribution to solving international problems.

The Kingdom, under His Majesty the beloved King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, plays an important role on Gulf, Arab, and international levels and therefore enjoys an eminent position in the world.

Thanks to the Kingdom's wise policy, the Arab cause has gained increasing international attention which will shortly be translated into moves aimed at achieving a comprehensive and just peace.

During his talks in Washington His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz asserted that the Palestinian problem is the fundamental problem and that justice must be done to the Palestinian people.

His majesty the king also explained that the Arabs are seeking a just and comprehensive peace, as they proved in the Fes summit resolutions.

If we are to list the most important gains achieved as a result of his Majesty's visit to Washington, they are as follows:

Supporting the Palestinian cause and convincing the United States of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights;
Asserting the Arab peace plan as a basis for peace;
Putting the Middle East problem on the U.S. priority list;
Supporting the efforts aimed at ending the Iraq-Iran war.

His majesty's visit to Washington will probably again confirm that the Kingdom is always seeking to restore Arab rights, foremost among them the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. U.S. recognition of Palestinians' rights and the Arab peace plan is the result of the Kingdom's incessant efforts to end sufferings in the Middle East.

The Kingdom will continue to move in every direction for the sake of establishing a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East and achieving world stability. The Kingdom will continue to play its role until peace, security, and prosperity prevail throughout the world. We are urged to do this by our Islamic Shari'ah, which governs our course and behavior and which has led us, through our adherence to it, to join the ranks of the advanced states that shoulder great responsibilities toward all peoples.

Reagan Affirms PLO Role

PM211451 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 14 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "More Than One Meeting Point"]

[Excerpts] No U.S. President, Republican or Democrat, since President Roosevelt, who was in office when the Palestinian problem first emerged, has asserted in clear and frank terms as President Reagan has done the legitimacy of the Palestinian people's rights and the determination of his country and administration to deal with the Middle East problem on the basis of these rights or stated that no just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East can be achieved without a settlement of the Palestinian problem. He did so in response to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz who, in the name of friendship, Arab-U.S. relations, and common interests, urged him to follow a just, fair, and impartial Middle East policy.

During his talks with His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz President Reagan showed deep understanding of the Arab viewpoint, the justice of Palestinian rights, and the effect of his country's policy on those rights, on the future of Arab-U.S. relations, and on vital U.S. interests in the area. This was thanks to His Majesty King Fahd's clear explanation of the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the magnitude of the tragedy which the Palestinian people have suffered and are still suffering as a

result of the usurpation of their country and their dispersal at the hands of the Zionist Jewish gangs.

During his first presidential term President Reagan did not show such an understanding of Arab demands and Palestinian rights as the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The reason was that he was not free, as he is now, of the Zionist lobby pressure that projects the Jews to U.S. public opinion as a persecuted people facing the danger of extermination by the Arabs.

During his meeting with His Majesty King Fahd, President Reagan seemed to be more free of the U.S.-Zionist and Israeli pressure since he began his second term of office. He also seemed more confident in his ability to pursue a Middle East policy based on the principles of justice and the restoration of legitimate Palestinian rights. Indeed, he took an encouraging step when he declared clearly for the first time that the legitimate Palestinian rights will be the focus of peace efforts in the Middle East.

This U.S. declaration at summit level is, in our estimation and that of every political observer aware of the impact and effect of the U.S. role, the beginning of a road to further agreement between the Arab stand and the U.S. stand toward the Middle East problem. It is also the beginning of the road to joint action for real peace in the area.

Fahd Achieves Arab 'Victories'

PM211601 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 15 Feb 85 p 2

[Editorial: "King Fahd's Victories for the Arab Cause in the U.S. Arena"]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan's admission to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz during their White House talks that the unified Arab peace plan approved by the Fes Arab summit conference in September 1982 contains positive and constructive aspects, and the inclusion of this acknowledgement in the final official communique on the U.S.-Saudi talks, are some of the major political victories achieved by his majesty, may God protect him, on his U.S. visit and in his talks with President Reagan on the Middle East conflict.

President Reagan's statement — also included in the final official communique — that the United States will conduct direct negotiations between the parties concerned with the Middle East conflict and the reaffirmation of U.S. commitments in that respect may be considered another major and extremely important political victory achieved by His Majesty King Fahd in his talks in the United States.

With his wisdom, political skill, and brilliant diplomacy, his majesty, may God keep him safe, has managed to break the deadlock which had long hampered U.S. policy in the Middle East and to rectify its one-track approach in its support of Israel militarily and economically and in defense of its foolish policy in international circles. His majesty, may God preserve him, has managed to bring about a change in the official U.S. attitude in President Reagan's second term of office, as indicated by President Reagan himself in the final joint communique on the U.S.-Saudi talks.

For the first time an Arab leader visiting the United States has managed to obtain a pledge from its president, at the peak of his election victory and the height of his power, to hold direct negotiations with all the parties to the Middle East conflict without exception or reservation. This necessarily means that the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people and their cause, for the first time enters the circle of direct U.S. negotiations with the parties to the Middle East conflict.

The U.S. disregard for the PLO and its failure to negotiate directly with it as a main party to the Middle East conflict constituted one of the most serious strategic mistakes of the U.S. policy in the Middle East. President Reagan's recent statement contained in the final joint communique on the U.S.-Saudi talks corrects that mistake.

The positive results achieved by the beloved King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in the United States in favor of the fateful Arab cause, which is the cause of Palestinian rights, have revived hope for a more just and effective U.S. role. On the U.S. side, these results also means significant gains for the United States in the Arab world through the strengthening of U.S.-Arab friendship and the reaffirmation of continuing U.S. vital interests in the region, with the same strength and benefits for the friendly U.S. people.

In the light of the splendid results of His Majesty King Fahd's U.S. visit and his talks with President Reagan and some of the pillars of his administration, U.S. policy will witness a new era of Arab appreciation and respect to the degree that this policy moves in the direction of the new assurances and undertakings made by President Reagan to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and before Arab and world public opinion, on his behalf and on behalf of his administration. That is in itself yet another victory scored by his majesty, may God protect him, for the fateful Arab cause in the U.S. arena.

Mideast Settlement Possible

PM211117 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 17 Feb 85 p 2

[Jasir ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasir article: "The Way Opened for Middle East Settlement"]

[Text] Political circles in Middle East are preparing themselves for a new phase of political activity aimed at giving the formulas and initiatives for a Middle East settlement a practical framework, now that the past few days have witnessed a qualitative shift which places this issue at the top of the world political circles' list of priorities.

Observers believe that the results of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz' visit to the United States, which were clearly reflected in the joint communique, and the fact that Jordan and the PLO have agreed on a joint formula are two positive factors which pave the way for a just settlement of the Palestinian question.

Observers are focusing on the positive change in the U.S. position on that question in the wake of His Majesty King Fahd's intensive talks. They note that President Reagan appeared freer of the Zionist pressure which restricts U.S. decisionmaking because of

election considerations. This attitude of the President was evident in his welcoming speech for His Majesty King Fahd, when he underscored the importance of fulfilling legitimate Palestinian rights. Observers noted that the phrase "legitimate Palestinian rights," which in the past was one of the phrases U.S. officials were not allowed to use, was not only uttered by the top U.S. official but was also included in the U.S.-Saudi joint communique. The very fact that a joint communique was issued about talks held by a world leader with the U.S. President is a precedent in itself and something that seldom occurs in U.S. politics.

All these points indicate to observers that His Majesty's talks were no ordinary talks to begin with and that they achieved extraordinary results. Observers, relying on definite information, emphasize that what his majesty achieved in Washington opens and paves the way for serious and fruitful negotiations on the Palestinian question. Accordingly, they confirm that the region and some of the capitals where international decisions are made have found the basis for Middle East negotiations in the results of King Fahd's talks in Washington and the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. That is why Tuesday's Vienna meeting of the U.S. and Soviet officials in charge of Middle Eastern affairs will be a fruitful meeting because of the grounds provided by the latest developments.

Could it then be said that the Middle East question has found its way after years of ambiguity? With clear optimism observers affirm that the current year will witness several positive developments related to the settlement of this question and that the negotiation course initiated by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in Washington, if sustained in the same vein and if well exploited by the Arabs, will give them the political achievement they have long been pursuing.

New U.S. Role

PM211613 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 19 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "A Different View of the New U.S. Role"]

[Text] During his intensive political talks with President Reagan and a number of his administration's senior officials during his U.S. visit His Majesty beloved King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz achieved victories and gains of extreme importance and value for the central Arab cause, namely the question of Palestinian rights, which are the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East.

Among these victories and gains was that His Majesty obtained from President Reagan an admission in terms clearer than ever before of the existence of several positive elements in the unified Arab peace plan adopted at the Fes summit, which was originally a Saudi plan which His Majesty King Fahd laid down.

This U.S. recognition, as a we said in a previous article, is an implicit and clear support for the Arab consensus achieved at the Fes summit on the kind of peaceful solution the Arabs want for their conflict with Israel.

Its implicit and clear meaning is also that President Reagan's Administration is reducing its partiality with and sympathy for Israel and is now ready to understand the Arab viewpoint and take it into consideration in drawing up a Middle East policy that is more moderate, more fair, and more equitable between Israel and the Arabs.

Furthermore, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz obtained a written pledge from President Reagan in the final joint statement on the talks that the United States will remain committed to finding a peaceful and just solution for the Middle East crisis through direct negotiations with all the principal parties to the conflict without exception. As we said in a previous article, the PLO, as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is included among the principled parties which will be involved in the U.S. negotiations.

These two major victories which his majesty, may God preserve him, achieved for his Arab nation's fateful cause are reflected in the new U.S. role in the Middle East.

This role appears to be more serious, objective, impartial, and balanced in giving equal consideration to the views of all the parties to the conflict in the area, including Israel, which has had the advantage over the other parties of enjoying U.S. partiality and sympathy.

In our estimation what is now required on the Arab level is to adopt a political view of the U.S. role that is different from the view held during the many past years when this role was fundamentally biased toward Israel alone -- which created an anti-U.S. feeling among many Arab parties involved in the Middle East crisis.

It is also our estimation that there is no longer any justification for such hostile feelings following the emergence of favorable signs and indications of a new U.S. role that will take a more balanced view of the stands of the parties to the conflict.

Indeed, what is required on the Arab level is to demonstrate great collective Arab trust in President Reagan and his administration commensurate with the new understanding the President and his administration have shown toward the nature of the Middle East conflict, in order to encourage them to proceed with the policy that will lay down objective goals for the new U.S. role in the settlement of the Middle East conflict.

It would be unwise of the Arabs at this stage just to suspend the feeling of hostility that some of them harbor toward the United States, because of its previous stands, or merely to watch what it is going to do at the present or the next stage.

Indeed, all the Arabs must move with vigor, confidence, and optimism toward this new U.S. view of the problem, in order to show that they are interested in the new U.S. Mideast policy.

His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz' visit and talks in the United States have created new concepts for the U.S. Administration regarding the Arab cause and the Palestinian cause.

Arab leaders must now give an impetus to these concepts and to develop them collectively in order to reach a common concensus leading toward a just solution.

UAE

UAE President Interviewed on Gulf Issues

GF210936 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0655 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has stressed that the GCC is "a strong support for all brothers in the Arab nation since the Gulf states are part of this nation."

In a statement to the newspapers Abu Dhabi *AL-ITTIHAD* and Muscat *'UMAN* published today, he expressed hope that God will guide the Arab brothers in the neighboring regions of the Arab world to create bodies similar to the GCC so as to become an added power strengthening the Arab nation and reinforcing its edifice.

His Highness said: "A number of fraternal states have been reunited by the formation of the GCC. We are still on the path toward achieving our goals so that the GCC can remain forever a help to our brothers whether near or far."

Noting the relations between the UAE and the Sultanate of Oman, His Highness Shaykh Zayid denied the reports about the existence of any border differences between them, and said: "There are no differences concerning borders between us and fraternal Oman. On our part, we believe that we are one people and our fate is one."

His highness stressed that his visit to the Sultanate of Oman, which begins today, is expressive of the profound ties linking the two countries. He said: "Such visits bring good, happiness and prosperity to the peoples of both countries and to the Arab and Islamic nations."

His highness the UAE president explained that his visit to the Sultanate of Oman is within the framework of the continuing consultation between the two countries on questions and matters that concern the region and the Arab and Islamic nations. His highness stressed the importance of these meetings and contacts considering them to be "a necessity for bolstering reassurance and providing security and stability in both countries and in our region, as well as stating our joint desire to achieve solidarity and cooperation between the brothers."

His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan affirmed the stand of the UAE toward the Iraq-Iran war and said that the UAE rejects all wars, particularly a war between two Muslim countries. He added: "We declared our stance from the beginning; the Iraq-Iran war is destructive for both neighboring Muslim countries, and thus we have exerted and are still exerting continuous efforts to stop this war and put an end to shedding of Muslim blood. For this reason, we have made contacts and held talks with numerous parties and explained our opinion in various meetings and discussions, and we informed the two concerned parties that this war results only in harming the Islamic nation and in inflicting irreparable destruction on both sides. We pray unto the Almighty, the Creator, to resolve this crisis and be of help to us and to our brothers in order to put an end to this war as soon as possible."

And about establishing diplomatic relations between the UAE and the PRC, his highness said that the UAE is a sovereign state and each state has its opinion and view, and is entitled to what it deems to be permissible and appropriate for it. In light of this fact it adopts the appropriate decisions on the level of its relations with other countries according to the interests of its people.

Petroleum Minister Views Market Improvement

GF211032 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and mineral resources minister, has stressed that the petroleum market has improved. In a statement published in today's issue of *AL-ITTIHAD*, he expressed satisfaction for this improvement which came as a result of OPEC's recent decision and the result of the commitment of all members to this decision, including the states which had reservations about OPEC's recent decisions: Iran, Libya and Algeria. The organization's conference which was recently held in Geneva decided to price the Arab heavy oil at $26.50 per barrel, the lightest of all oils at $28.65 per barrel, and the Miryan oil at $28.15 per barrel.

PDRY

Prime Minister Addresses Foreign Diplomats

GF210532 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, yesterday held a reception for the heads of accredited diplomatic missions in Aden. At the start of the reception, Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, warmly welcomed the heads of the diplomatic missions and pointed that the purpose of this meeting is to meet the new prime minister, Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas. He explained that the prime minister was very anxious to meet with the diplomatic corps accredited to the PDRY. Then he introduced the brother prime minister to the ambassadors.

On this occasion, Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas delivered a speech in which he expressed to the heads of diplomatic missions our country's appreciation and pride for the developing relations with many fraternal and friendly countries. He also expressed to them the desire to further develop our country's relations with those countries that share the same goals He said: I seize this opportunity to reaffirm to you, just as I did when I took up this post, that our country will remain loyal to the same goals and principles drawn by the YSP for our foreign policy which is a peaceful policy based on the principles of peaceful coexistence and coordination among nations and which enabled our country to occupy a prestigious position and to establish progressing relations with the countries of the socialist bloc and good relations with many countries with varying social systems. There are good prospects for bolstering and boosting these relations for mutual benefit and for the exchange of facilities and cooperation.

At the conclusion of his speech, the brother prime minister stressed to the heads of diplomatic missions that our country will do the best it can in order to provide them with the appropriate atmosphere for executing their noble tasks that are aimed at developing bilateral relations, boosting cooperation and consolidating mutual understanding between our country and their countries, wishing them good luck and success.

Brother 'Abbas Zaki, PLO representative and dean of the diplomatic corps in Aden, delivered a speech in which he renewed his congratulations to the brother prime minister on the occasion of his election. He pointed out that arranging this meeting is an indication of the PDRY anxiousness to create solid and strong relations with the countries with which it has established friendship and cooperation relations. He expressed his satisfaction and the satisfaction of the diplomatic missions for the development that is taking place in the PDRY and for the efforts exerted by the Yemeni people in order to get rid of all signs of backwardness.

Brother 'Abbas Zaki highly praised the foreign policy pursued by the PDRY and the process of economic and social development it is witnessing.

Premier Replies to Congratulatory Cables

Message to GDR

GF212010 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Feb 85

["Text" of cable from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Comrade Willi Stoph, member of the SED Politburo and chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, in response to congratulatory cable — date not given]

[Text] It pleases me to express to you my sincerest gratitude and appreciation for the congratulatory cable which you sent to me on the occasion of my election as chairman of the Council of Ministers. On this occasion, I affirm to you that the relations of friendship and cooperation between our governments and peoples will grow increasingly closer and stronger in all fields and on all levels on the basis of the friendship and cooperation treaty. I wish you health and happiness, and more progress and prosperity for the friendly GDR people.

Cable To CSSR

GF212024 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Feb 85

["Text" of cable from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Comrade Lubomir Strougal, chairman of the CSSR Council of Ministers, in response to congratulatory cable — date not given]

[Text] I have received with great pleasure the congratulatory cable which you sent to me on the occasion of my election as chairman of the Council of Ministers. I warmly thank you for your kind salute. Allow me to affirm that the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two peoples and countries in all spheres will grow and develop on the basis of the principle of internationalist and proletarian solidarity. We will work to firmly consolidate these relations for the good of our peoples' progress and prosperity in building a new life.

I wish you health and happiness, and progress and prosperity for the fraternal CSSR people.

Response to Hungarian Cable

GF220610 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Feb 85

["Text" of cable from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Gyorgy Lazar, chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, in response to congratulatory cable — date not given]

[Text] I have received with pleasure the congratulatory cable which you have sent us on the occasion of our election PDRY chairman of the Council of Ministers. I heartily thank you for your warm cable. I seize this opportunity to express to you our desire that we will make all efforts to expand and strengthen the friendship and cooperation relations between the governments of our peoples stemming from the principle of solidarity of proletarian internationalism and serving the vital common interests of our friendly countries. I wish you continued health and happiness and the friendly Hungarian people more prosperity and progress.

Bulgarian Official Ends Visit; Protocol Signed

GF211706 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Comrade Georgiev, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian-PDRY Friendship Society, left Aden today following a visit to the PDRY which lasted for several days, during which he met with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; and Brother Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the YSP Political Bureau, secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and chairman of the PDRY-Bulgarian Friendship Society. During the visit a cooperation protocol for 1985-86 was signed.

In a statement to ANA, Comrade Georgiev described his visit as successful and that it achieved positive results with regard to developing relations of cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He expressed satisfaction at the achievements which the PDRY has made in the economic, cultural, and social fields.

Defense Minister Greets Soviet Counterpart

GF212002 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Feb 85

["Text" of congratulatory cable from Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the YSP Political Bureau and minister of defense, to Comrade Marshal Sergey Sokolov, member of the

CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of defense, on the 67th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy — date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, it pleases me, in my own name and in the name of all the fighters of the PDRY Armed Forces, to convey to you the warmest comradely congratulations.

The glorious history of the struggle of the Soviet Army and Navy is replete with immortal and heroic feats which these forces have achieved in the defense of the Great October Revolution through participation in the revolution or by defending it, during the civil war and the great national war, and through internationalist participation in liberating the peoples of the world from the yoke of fascism and colonialism.

The Soviet Army and Navy still play an important and vital role in defending world peace and in firmly confronting the activities and military schemes of U.S. imperialism and its allies and their constant attempts to create explosive and critical situations in various spots in the world and in space.

The YSP and the CPSU and our two governments constantly direct the Armed Forces of the PDRY and the Soviet Army and Navy to carry out their full duty to firmly defend the historical and socialist achievements in order to avoid nuclear catastrophe and to preserve permanent peace on earth.

On this great occasion, I wish all fighters in the Soviet Army and Navy more progress and completion of their combat skills, and to you personally more creativity and great successes in carrying out the functions of your important responsibility.

Dear Comrade Sergey Sokolov, I wish you and all those you love good health and great happiness.

YSP Cables DFLP Secretary General on Anniversary

GF211746 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 85

["Text" of cable from the YSP Central Committee to Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP, on the DFLP's 16th anniversary — date not given]

[Text] As you celebrate the 16th anniversary of the establishment of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], we are delighted to express our warmest comradely congratulations and struggle relations to you and to all the comrades at the DFLP Political Bureau and the Central Committee and to all its cadres and strugglers.

Your celebrations on this occasion and under the current circumstances which the Palestinian arena is experiencing sincerely express your determination and resolution to continue the struggle with other Palestinian national and progressive powers to develop the national liberation struggle which your fraternal people are launching in order to restore their right to return home, their right to self-determination, and their right to establish an independent state on their national soil.

We admire the efforts you are exerting to preserve the unity of the PLO on the bases of its national line of opposition to imperialism and Zionism, and to restore its nature and character as a broad national front that represents the various national classes of the Palestinian people, in addition to the preservation of its status and role as the sole, legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people.

On this occasion, we express our full support for and solidarity with the struggle of your front and of all the Palestinian national powers in confrontation of all endeavors designed to damage the national gains attained by the fraternal Palestinian people during the past 20 years of struggle against imperialism and Zionism. We are confident that the Palestinian people are determined to continue their struggle until victory with regard to their rights to return home, to self-determination, and to the establishment of an independent state on their national soil. In their struggle, the Palestinians have received — and will continue to receive — every support from the Arab and the international liberation and progressive powers.

The past 16 years have witnessed marked and palpable progress in the struggle relations existing between the YSP and your struggling front — the DFLP. In as much as we express our satisfaction with the advanced standards reached in our relationship, we would like to affirm our determination to move forward in bolstering them and widening their horizons in the course of the joint struggle launched by our fraternal peoples — the Palestinians and the Yemenis — against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaryism.

King Husayn To Visit Cairo First Week of March

NC211532 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid today met with the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo. They reviewed topics related to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, and the results of Jordan's contacts in this regard. They also discussed bilateral relations. Our correspondent has learned that the Jordanian monarch, His Majesty King Husayn, will visit Cairo during the first week of March and that he will have talks with President Husni Mubarak regarding developments in the Middle East situation. The visit will take place before the visits President Mubarak will pay to France, the United States, and Britain.

Abu Ghazalah Leaves on Visit to UK, U.S.

NC211038 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1014 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, left Cairo this morning for London on his way to the United States. He is accompanied by Lieutenant General al-Sayyid Hamdi, commander of the Air Defense Forces. During his 3-day visit to the United States, which will begin on Saturday, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah is to discuss the armament program and its development in line with the situation in the Middle East with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and senior U.S. officials. He will also discuss the U.S. military assistance program to Egypt.

Mubarak Cables Qatari Amir on Anniversary of Rule

NC211111 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following congratulatory cable to the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al-Thani, on the anniversary of his assuming power:

It gives me great pleasure to send to your highness my sincerest heartfelt wishes on the occasion of the anniversary marking your assumption of power. On this occasion it pleases me to express our admiration for the good achievements your fraternal people have made on the path of progress and prosperity under your wise leadership. I beseech God Almighty to guide us to what is best for our fraternal peoples and to achieve a better future for the peoples of our glorious nation.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader Details Future Plans

PM211201 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Feb 85 p 8

[Unattributed report: "-'Umar al-Talmasani Tells *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*: The Muslim Brotherhood Is Preparing To Announce Its Party"]

[Excerpts] Cairo — Some circles in Cairo emphasize that new life will be injected into the Egyptian political scene when the verdict regarding the restoration of the Muslim Brotherhood is announced. If the verdict is in the Muslim Brotherhood's favor it will mark the beginning of intensive Muslim Brotherhood activity at all levels, or, alternatively, it could mean putting the final touches to the group's plan to form a new party. *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* here gives a comprehensive idea of the brotherhood's plan for forming a party and of how it intends to overcome the obstacles resulting from the law that bans the formation of parties on a religious basis.

Some partisan political circles in Cairo maintain that the alliance between the Al-Wafd Party and the Muslim Brotherhood is bound to be affected by the attitude of Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il, who recently suspended his membership in the Al-Wafd Party, because Abu Isma'il was the one who played the major part in promoting cooperation between the Al-Wafd Party and the Muslim Brotherhood. [Muslim Brotherhood Leader] 'Umar al-Talmasani, in a statement to *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, described him as the Muslim Brotherhood's channel to Al-Wafd.

It is quite clear, however, that this crisis has not harmed the good relations between the Al-Wafd Party and the Muslim Brotherhood. The latter has reaffirmed that relations between the two sides are still good. Al-Talmasani has emphasized that the experiment should continue. He added: There is still cooperation and coordination between us, except for some differences of opinion which are discussed very freely within the parliamentary group.

In his statement to *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, 'Umar al-Talmasani stressed that there would be no need for the Muslim Brotherhood to form a new party if the court ruled in the brotherhood's favor, because this would make it legitimate and enable it to carry out its political, economic, and social activities. In that case the question of forming a party would be finally dropped.

Asked what the Muslim Brotherhood would do if the court verdict were not in its favor, he said: The Muslim Brotherhood is a universal Islamic body and its appeal and program cover the whole world. In that respect it is superior to local parties. No Egyptian party has branches abroad, but the brotherhood has branches in all states. When the door was slammed in our face, out of a desire to express our views we thought of following a course that would reflect some of the Muslim Brotherhood activities, but that was not exactly the Muslim Brotherhood because the Muslim Brotherhood is a world body not confined to borders. If we have contemplated making preparations to form a party, that is only one aspect of the brotherhood's activities but not its vocation. Although we do not like to anticipate events, we will submit an application to the parties committee within 2 or 3 months, and are already studying all the conditions for forming a party.

Asked about the claim that forming a party would in fact be a violation of the brotherhood's ideology, he said: There is no contradiction. Our opinion of parties is quite clear. If the doors were open to us we would not have considered forming a party, particularly because we are an international group preaching Islam. Since we are banned in Egypt and because, as good citizens, we abide by the laws of the land — although we advocate changing those laws and making them subject to the Islamic

Shari'a — we are now making all the necessary studies in order to overcome the restrictions under the parties law, and we can do it. We will declare the party open to the brotherhood and others. Some Muslim Brotherhood members have even suggested that the party should include some Copts.

'Umar al-Talmasani denied that the Al-Ummah Party is likely to become the Muslim Brotherhood's party. He said: We have nothing whatever to do with the Al-Ummah Party.

Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il has reaffirmed his rejection of the idea of a Muslim Brotherhood party. He said: The problem is that the new party is supposed to recognize Camp David, which would contradict the previous position rejecting Camp David. If the new party is formed on a nonreligious basis, then what would be the difference between it and the other parties and what need would there be for it?

Mubarak Appoints New MAYU Chief, Managing Editors

PM211523 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Feb 85 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Ibrahim Sa'dah Is MAYU's Chief Editor"]

[Text] President and NDP Leader Husni Mubarak has made a decision to appoint Ibrahim Sa'dah as chief editor of MAYU. He also approved the appointment of Nabil Abazah as the paper's managing editor.

AL-MUSAWWAR Expounds on Jordanian-PLO Accord

NC211026 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo 21 Feb (MENA) — *AL-MUSAWWAR* magazine says that during their scheduled meeting at the White House on 12 March, President Husni Mubarak will acquaint President Reagan with the text of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement, signed by Jordan's King Husayn and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, regarding the basis forjoint moves in the coming stage .

In its issue to be published tomorrow, Friday, *AL-MUSAWWAR* says that the principles of the Palestinian-Jordanian document include a number of bases for reconciling differences between King Husayn's concept of the need to stress Arab commitment to accept the principle of land in return for peace and the Palestinian concept stressing their right to an independent state linked in confederation with Jordan. The magazine points out that all the parties that exerted fundamental efforts to achieve this document, in addition to Egypt which extended basic help in bringing the two sides' viewpoints closer, agree that the Palestinian side alone has the right to announce the contents of the document.

Despite this, it can be ascertained that the document includes points of common agreement. The first confirms acceptance of the principle of land in return for peace, which means accepting coexistence with Israel and recognizing it within secure boundaries if it agrees to withdraw to the 1967 borders.

Under the headline "The Dimensions of the Agreement," *AL-MUSAWWAR* says that the document includes another paragraph on the Palestinian acknowledgement of all UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue. It also includes a definite acknowledgement of all Security Council resolutions. This is another unambiguous sign of Palestinian willingness to acknowledge Resolution 242 based on the peace agreement issued by the Security Council within the framework of its efforts to effect a cease-fire in the wake of the 1967 war. The document includes another paragraph that confirms acceptance by the Palestinian and Jordanian sides of the premise of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to peace negotiations to be held within the framework of an international conference.

The magazine asserts that in its final content, the document means PLO acceptance of giving priority to opportunities for a settlement. It also acknowledges the need for a Jordanian role as a full partner, a role excluded at the Arab summit in Rabat since it could have affected recognition of the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in any efforts aimed at solving the conflict on a comprehensive and just basis.

Commentary on U.S.-USSR Positions on Mideast

NC211542 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "Why Have the United States and the Soviet Union Resumed Consultations on the Middle East?"]

[Excerpts] U.S.-Soviet consultations on the Middle East, which recently took place in Vienna, are of important significance particularly at this juncture. As is known, the efforts that are now being exerted to reactivate the peace process in the area indicate a remarkable seriousness which should alert all the parties concerned, especially the major powers, to their responsibilities. The major powers' stance, particularly that of the two superpowers, regarding the Middle East requires some analysis. There is competition between the United States and the Soviet Union for influence in the area. This is a fact known to all and this competition does not come from a vacuum. The United States has important interests in the region, which are basically economic interests. The United States and the major Western industrial states in general need energy, energy from oil, and this region is considered to be the major source of oil. These states cannot guarantee their oil supplies unless they have a strong direct or indirect presence in the region. Moreover, the region is still considered one of the most important markets for absorbing the products of these states, particularly consumer commodities.

If we discuss the Soviet position, it becomes clear that the Soviet position is similar to that of the Western states except for the motives and goals of the Soviet Union in the Middle East. The Middle East is of great strategic importance to the Soviet Union and that is why the Soviet Union has adopted its known stance supporting the states that are opposed to Western interests in the region. No matter how we view this matter, we will not find a motive for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan other than to contain Western influence in the region after the balance of power was tilted in favor of the West during the 1970's. This is

the basis of the conflict between the two superpowers in the region. Their discussions regarding the region stopped 8 years ago. However, it has been a long time and conditions and developments have made it encumbent on the two powers to change the current conflict with one another. What the region's states and peoples must be alert to is that the two superpowers should not reach a balance between them at the expense of their vital interests. We believe that the region's people will adjust their positions toward the two states based on the extent of these powers' commitment to international legality.

AL-MUSAWWAR Views U.S. Aid Benefits for Egypt

PM191410 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 15 Feb 85 pp 4-6

[Makram Muhammad Ahmad article: "The U.S. Aid and Us"]

[Excerpts] Aid does not last forever. This is the first thing that should be said in any discussion of U.S. aid, or rather the reality that we should resign ourselves to accept.

I am not saying this because there is something on their mind. On the contrary, U.S. aid to Egypt will most likely increase although not in the same proportion as recent aid to the Israelis.

However, I am saying this so that we should realize that aid is an opportunity that will not last forever and that our success depends on our ability to exploit this opportunity; this should not be in order to satisfy our increasingly ravenous appetite for consumption but to add, through aid, to our economic capabilities as much as possible so that we will eventually shoulder our responsibility for development by depending on ourselves.

I do not think that there is anything to prevent us from the ideal utilization of this aid, which exceeds $1.1 billion annually, in addition to a similar amount for the rearmament of our Armed Forces in accordance with Egyptian security needs. In the final analysis, aid finances Egyptian ideas, programs, and projects. These projects are not imposed on us by anybody because it is we who decide how and where the aid is used and, therefore, in actual fact it constitutes part of Egypt's available capabilities and resources which it alone has the right to channel.

In fact, no fair-minded person can deny the effect the aid had on stabilizing the Egyptian economy which, before the 1973 war, suffered a serious financial crisis. President al-Sadat, may he rest in peace, one day revealed that one of the reasons for his decision to launch the 1973 war was that there was not enough money in the Egyptian treasury to buy bread.

The Egyptian economy also suffered from a critical deficiency in production because of aging equipment in the public sector and the state of near collapse of all the public utilities — sewars, water, communications, and energy — because the successive wars had exhausted the economy resulting in the inability to provide for maintanence and renewal of these utilities.

Moreover, the private sector at that time was held captive by fear; it was opposed to the current policies, keeeping its savings to itself, and shunning any real participation.

Briefly, the entire Egyptian economy was in a difficult predicament; the meager aid from the Arab brothers was no help. Even this was conditional upon a guarantee by a third international party and was received only after long prompting.

The truth is that, despite the criticism directed against U.S. aid, whether for ideological or nationalist reasons, this aid has made a fundamental contribution to many sectors, all of which are related to boosting the Egyptian economy in the agricultural, industrial, and service sectors as well as to repairing the decaying public utilities.

Maybe initially the Americans did not invest their aid in a gigantic and ambitions project like the High Dam, which has been the target of unfair criticism and has abated only after everybody has realized the drought that African and all Nile basin countries are suffering because of the water shortage during the past 6 years, but no fair-minded person can ignore the tremendous effect of the major projects that have been implemented with U.S. aid.

President 'Abd al-Nasir used to conclude every speech by saying something that became a custom and known by heart. He was right in saying: We must thank the friendly Soviet peoples because they have stood with us in economic development and have supported the High Dam project.

However, the Americans have heard no such complimentary phrases. The reason could be that their foot-dragging over solving the problem of the Arab-Israeli conflict so that the peoples of the area might live in a comprehensive and just peace has cast a shadow over their role in the area. It could also be due to the extreme sensitivity of some Egyptian officials who daily inaugurate new projects financed by U.S. aid. Still, no fair-minded person can deny that U.S. aid has contributed to developing Egypt's capability to produce electric power equal to that of the High Dam through the erection of major power plants in Talkha, Hulwan, Ismailia, Al-Suyuf, and Al-Mahmudiyah in addition to the renovation of the High Dam turbines.

Likewise, no fair-minded person can deny that U.S. aid has contributed to the reconstruction the Suez Canal Zone with all its utilities and the complete renovation of drainage systems in Cairo and Alexandria in addition to renovating public sector equipment and scores of projects aimed at boosting Egyptian agriculture through increasing production yields.

If there has to be a reason for the large portion of U.S. aid that Egypt is receiving — and certainly there must be reasons — then we must ask ourselves what price have we paid?

Most probably it is that we have given the United States our friendship after a long period of estrangement for a variety of reasons.

Yes, Egypt's friendship is something important and fundamental in international relations. This has been so since the world realized that there are two superpowers that sometimes compete with one another, and at other times their interests are one and the same. Since the times of the Hellenes and the Persians, Egypt has been the gate to Africa and the Arab world, the key to war,

the source of stability, and the balance wheel. Egypt is all this. Yet Egypt, the state with a medium-sized capability and with a role to play in the area, should not allow its disagreement with either superpower to become a conflict if it can through dialogue find a solution to such disagreement before it develops into a conflict.

This Egyptian-U.S. friendship which has become a special relationship did not force Egypt to become part of the U.S. strategy or to give military bases to the Americans on its territory. It did not force it to connive, through silence, over Arab rights or to persist in the estrangement with the other superpower, the Soviet Union.

The Egyptian role may or may not fit in with the U.S. role, for Egypt has its own viewpoint, concept, and role which might or might not agree with the U.S. role.

I do not think that Egypt agrees with the U.S. view that would probably prefer Egypt's role in the Arab world to diminish. I also do not think that Egypt agrees with the U.S. view that rejects dialogue with the PLO. I also do not think that Egypt agrees with the U.S. view that insists on excluding the Soviet Union from being a party to peace in the Middle East. I do not think that Egypt will give the Americans bases on its territory after its previous experiment when it gave the Soviets bases following the [1967] setback for reasons connected with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

I believe that in addition to our friendship with the Americans we have given our fundamental commitment to peace in the Middle East which we have adopted as a strategic line that should overcome all difficulties until a comprehensive and just peace is established.

I do not think that any part in the Arab arena can, in light of the present conditions and the current balance of power, see a more realistic option and more practical course other than peace despite all the difficulties it is encountering. We all — leftists, rightists, moderates, oil-rich, or not oil-rich — now speak about overcoming the obstacles on the path to peace and nothing else. Israel would probably seek to establish itself as a criterion or a touchstone of Egyptian-U.S. relations with the help of the Zionist pressure groups that have made the question of Israel in the U.S. domestic situation a matter intermingled with issues of U.S. national security.

It is probably solely for this reason that campaigns are launched every time President Mubarak visits Washington; the aim is to try to use relations with Israel as a touchstone of Egyptian-U.S. relations. Such a campaign against Egypt has actually begun. In this campaign Shim'on Peres has abandoned his previous caution and joined the triumvirate that includes Rabin and Shamir who attack Egypt allegedly because it continues to refuse to establish normal relations with Israel despite the peace treaty.

If the Israeli campaign that is repeated every time there is an Egyptian visit to Washington aims at using Israel as the touchstone for testing the Egyptian-U.S. relations, I do not think that this objective can be achieved for two reasons:

First, Egyptian-U.S. relations are desirable for their own sake. Regardless of the degree of U.S. commitment to Israel, these relations should not be subject to Israeli blackmail.

Second, Egypt has given Israel a full opportunity to establish normal relations but Israel, with its present coalition government, is incapable of making the simplest decisions that would create the atmosphere for such normal relations. The simplest decision is to go to international arbitration over the Tabah question.

Some people would probably like to believe that there is yet another price for U.S. aid, namely that Egypt now belongs to the moderate Arab camp. Unfortunately we often use terms of this kind which have been coined abroad without without carefully examining them and without asking ourselves what is exactly meant by a moderate state.

The true concept of moderation does not mean extremism, but it also does not mean weakness, forsaking rights, or getting involved in the strategies of others, although those who coined such a term meant all these things.

Egypt has opted for moderation in its policy as a result of its long experience. After 30 years of momentous events experience has taught us that we might be somewhat able to accelerate history but we cannot abridge it or bypass all its stages. The momentous events of the past 30 years have taught us that capabilities should be proportionate to ambitions. They have also taught us that dividing the Arab world into moderates and extremists has sown doubt among us and led to foreign interference. I do not think that anybody can forget that moderation in Egyptian policy preceded U.S. aid and the peace plan. It was the first lesson learned from the June setback when Egypt called for unity of ranks and of objective.

This was what we have paid in return for the U.S. aid now totaling more than $1.1 billion annually in addition to military grants. Since its beginning in 1975 the aid has totaled about $9 billion, 32 percent of which has gone into renovating the public sector and replacing its old machinery with new; 42 percent has gone into new projects relating to rebuilding Egyptian public utilities that were on the verge of collapse; and 24 percent has gone toward subsidizing bread and food commodities and building grain silos in order to reduce waste. [figures as published]

It might be asked: If everything was all right why was there a need for this big Egyptian delegation which left for Washington 10 days ago headed by Minister of Planning Dr Kamal al-Janzuri in preparation for President Mubarak's visit?

The Egyptian economic delegation went for four specific objectives.

The first isto boost the effectiveness of U.S. aid and ensure its flow to various projects. This is part of a dialogue that has been going on for 2 years with the aim of establishing Egypt's right to obtain cash payments from U.S. aid without being conditional on buying U.S. goods; it is also aimed at changing some of the aid program from project patterns to sectorial patterns in order to facilitate the transfer of finance from one sector to another and to further link the aid to the development plan objectives.

The second isto conduct a detailed discussion between the two governments on the best ways to accelerate the implementation of sewerage projects in Cairo and which, over the years of the project, would cost $1.25 billion.

The third is to discuss Egypt's request to increase economic aid to $1.2 billion in addition to fixing an additional $600 million of aid; it has also requested writing off military loans given to Egypt before 1983, before military aid became an outright grant.

The fourth is to deal with the question of deficit in the trade balance between the two countries. Figures indicate that while U.S. exports to Egypt totaled about $3 billion, Egyptian exports to the United States did not exceed $40 million excluding oil exports, which last year did not exceed $257 million. Figures also show that total U.S. exports to Egypt, excluding U.S. aid with all its programs, reached about $2 billion. This means that U.S. trade is responsible for half of the deficit in Egypt's trade balance with the world. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the U.S. side to increase the volume of its modest investments in Egypt in order to finance export-oriented industries.

My aim of focusing on the question of aid is to clarify an important aspect in Egypt's bilateral relations with the United States which, due to certain sensitivities, has been ignored either out of embarrassment or deliberately.

I do not think that ignoring it could contribute to the health of these relations which should be based on dialogue and frankness.

Armed Forces Issue Communique No 1,749

JN211734 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Communique No 1,749 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 21 February 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continue their heroic confrontation of the retreating remnants of rancor, greed, and aggression. The following is a roundup of the activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. With successful air sorties, our daring helicopter gunships pursued enemy troops and struck their positions and equipment in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicting losses in military hardware and equipment, and destroying four infantry positions. Our helicopter gunships returned safely to base after having accomplished their mission.

2. Our forward units continued their courageous combat activities against enemy troops in the central sector of the battlefield, dealing successive blows with artillery and other weapons, and destroying three hardware stockpiles, three observation posts, one heavy-caliber machinegun, and one infantry position whose occupants were killed. In another area of the same sector, an enemy patrol tried to hinder [ta'thir] our patrol. However, using effective weapons against the enemy patrol, 10 enemy troops were killed and the rest fled.

3. Using artillery and all types of weapons, our forward units pounded enemy positions and weapon emplacements opposite their positions in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicting losses in life and equipment, and destroying five infantry positions whose occupants were killed.

4. Continuing its criminal trend, the evil enemy shelled Al-Shihabi with heavy artillery. As a result of enemy shelling, one house was demolished.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 February 1985

Letter to UN Defends Attacks Against Shipping

JN211941 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1825 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] New York, 21 Feb (INA) — Iraq informed the UN Security Council this evening that its attacks against vessels in the Arabian Gulf is a defensive act in accordance with international law. This was contained in a letter that Iraq's permanent UN Representative Riyad al-Qaysi sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The letter was distributed tonight as an official UN Security Council document.

In its letter, Iraq said that Iran's anxiety over navigation in the Gulf is astonishing, because everyone knows that Iran has used military means to prevent Iraq from exercising its legitimate right to free navigation in the Arabian Gulf. The letter added that the Iranian regime's insistence on prolonging the aggression and its refusal to negotiate peacefully has left Iraq with no other choice but to exercise self-defense; this conforms to the provisions of international law authorizing the state involved in a military confrontation to lay siege to the ports of the party that prolongs aggression in a certain area to force the aggressor to submit to peace.

In its letter, Iraq said that the expression "neutral commercial vessels," which the Iranian foreign minister had used, does not agree with the fact that these vessels are feeding the Iranian war machine, and thus pave the way for Iran to pursue its aggression in violation of the provisions of international law. From this premise, these vessels have forfeited their neutral status because they violated a right granted to them under international law. The owners and crews of these vessels as well as the Iranian regime are all responsible for the consequences that this violation may entail.

In its letter, Iraq added that if the Iranian Government really wishes to safeguard freedom of navigation and security in the Gulf, it would be more appropriate for Iran to abide by UN Security Council Resolution 540, issued on 31 October 1983; this resolution calls for a suspension of military operations in the Gulf region, including ports and waterways, that would permit all littoral states to exercise their legitimate right to free navigation in a manner serving the international community's interests.

The letter mentioned that it is obvious that the essence of the issue is that under the provisions of the UN Charter and international law, Iran is responsible for settling the conflict through peaceful means and discarding the policy of prolonging the aggression and the war. This alone would make security and stability prevail in the Gulf region and would lead to the prosperity of its people.

'Aziz Sends Message to Arab League's Klibi

JN211427 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Tunis, 21 Feb (INA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has received a written message from Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The message was delivered to Klibi by the acting Iraqi Arab League permanent representative. The message deals with the plan of action of the 7-member Arab committee charged with following up Iraqi-Iranian war developments and ways to implement its previous decisions in this respect.

During the meeting, Klibi renewed his call for ending the Iraqi-Iranian war, restoring peace to the region, and safeguarding the two parties' rights. He also reaffirmed his support for Iraq in its confrontation of the prolonged Iranian aggression against Iraqi territory. The 7-member Arab committee met in Baghdad last month and discussed the results of its previous action as well as its plans for the future.

Army Officer Views Future Offensive Action

JN220911 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) — A senior Iraqi officer said that the Iraqi Armed Forces, all formations and corps, are able to

carry out offensive missions against the Iranian forces at any time they choose. In a military analysis published in the newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* here today, Staff Major General Hamid Ahmad al-Ward added that the contribution of units or small forces to carrying out limited offensive action has a future dimension that will define better concepts of Iraq's resources to enable it to stage a comprehensive large-scale offensive. [sentence as received]

He explained that these resources may extend to several sectors, from the north to the south, in order to destroy the Iranian forces, decide the battle in the least possible time and, consequently, help the Iranian peoples get rid of the Iranian regime and save the region from its evil deeds and threats.

He indicated that such an operation, despite its magnitude and the changes it will reflect throughout the region, remains a possibility in Iraqi command calculations because it is the only solution guaranteeing the conclusion of the war.

He asserted that the military, mobilization, economic, and political requirements for this action are currently available, not to mention the objective circumstances, and the collapsing military resources and morale of the Iranian regime.

Conflicts Among Iranian Clergy Examined

GF211612 Baghdad Television Service in Persian 1025 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Unattributed commentary: "The War of the Ayatollahs"]

[Text] Some time ago, prominent newspapers of the free world wrote that the war of the ayatollahs had been stepped up. In reality, the struggle and fight for power started on 11 February 1979 and this struggle is taking on new dimensions every day

The differences of thought and conflicting views in the upper echelons of the regime are becoming more obvious and clear. This state of affairs has become so widespread that some people very openly disclose their conflicting views with Khomeyni's religious and administrative ideas. This difference — both in the administration of the country and in relations with the outside world — is quite obvious.

Undoubtedly, you people of Iran remember Khomeyni's decree on foreign trade, and you have not forgotten that the clergymen made new false promises to placate the bazaar merchants. Nor have you forgotten Khomeyni's decree on the law for the nationalization of foreign trade. You can also recall Hashemi-Rafsanjani's personal opinion; he is one element who is close to Khomeyni. Of course, you know that the difference of views between Khomeyni and Hashemi-Rafsanjani is like the difference between the earth and the sky. It was clear that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's views conflicted with Khomeyni's ideas and decree. Hashemi-Rafsanjani even said that Khomeyni's decree would cause turbulence and chaos among the Iranians.

Iranian people, you may also remember the kind of strong reaction Khomeyni showed toward what Hashemi-Rafsanjani said. Khomeyni said: How can a baker's vote on affairs concerning religion and government be ascendant and unchangeable? This was a direct insult to Hashemi-Rafsanjani and a sure slap in the face.

You also know that this difference did not end there . They also differ on issues such as the war. Furthermore, there are also great differences between the clerics themselves. After months and years of arguing and differences of views, the squabblers still have not reached a concrete conclusion on the question of the war. Not only have their differences not lessened, but quarrels between the clerics are being stepped up every day.

Some of them preach an unconditional end to the war in accordance with divine verses. As the lone ranger of the war, Khomeyni points to infinity when it comes to the continuation of hostilities. This is also in direct conflict with the Koran. Khomeyni's idea has brought nothing but disaster and affliction to the Iranian people.

At present, Iranian public opinion considers Khomeyni's views on the war as an unpleasant and unworthy idea — even evil and foul. Under such circumstances, Khomeyni can never acquire firm support for the continuation of the war — particularly when Iranian soldiers have become aware of the fact that the war no longer has national and religious legitimacy. This is why the soldiers are saying: We do not know the goals we are fighting for. Everyone is now aware that Islam is a shield and cover for hiding Khomeyni's evil aspirations.

These differences and the desperate situation of the regime now have reached a level that is considered to be a dire threat to Iran. Having destroyed all its bridges, the clerics' regime has no other alternative but to give in to the people.

French Minister Continues Visit to Baghdad

Communication Minutes Signed

JN211504 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1203 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA) — Today 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd al-Rahim, minister of transport and Louis Mexandeau, French minister of posts and telecommunications [title as received], signed minutes of the meetings from the sixth session of the Iraqi-French committee for cooperation in the areas of posts and communications.

In a speech at the signing ceremony, 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd al-Rahim praised the relations between Iraq and France in the fields of posts and communications, and the activities of the French institutions implementing communications projects in Iraq.

Louis Mexandeau affirmed his country's concern for increasing cooperation with Iraq in the fields of telephone communications, operating projects and modern communications systems, and promoting Iraqi expertise in this field.

The minutes of the meetings, which are within the framework of the cooperation agreement concluded between Iraq and France in 1983, include a program of technical cooperation between the

two countries for this year and next year to enhance the efficiency of the telephone communication systems workers and continue implementing the pulse modulation [al-tarasul al-'adadi] project and the ground station in Iraq.

The minutes also included an exchange of expertise and information in the fields of technology transfer, maintenance of electronic switches and telecommunications equipment, the exchange of experts, and training Iraqi cadres at French institutions specializing in communications.

The two sides agreed on the need for continuing the annual meetings of the committee in the two countries' capitals, alternately.

Departs for Home

JN220937 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0812 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) — Louis Mexandeau, French minister of posts and telecommunications [title as received], and his delegation left Baghdad for home at dawn today after a 2-day visit to Iraq.

The French minister signed minutes of the meetings from the sixth session of the Iraqi-French committee for cooperation in the field of posts and telecommunications. The minutes included a program for technical cooperation for this year and next in the field of telecommunications and in exchanging information in the field of technology transfer.

Envoys Brief Foreign Leaders on Accord With PLO

JN211417 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Jordanian envoys are still delivering messages from His Majesty King Husayn to world leaders on the Jordanian-Palestinian plan to establish peace in the Middle East and to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

The envoys will meet with senior officials in the countries they will visit in order to explain the aims and dimensions of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord that was achieved last week.

In this regard, Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, will arrive in Rome from Paris today to deliver a message from His Majesty King Husayn to Italian President Sandro Pertini after having delivered a message to French President Francois Mitterrand. Al-Qasim will also meet with Giulio Andreotti, Italian foreign minister and president of the EC Commission, to acquaint him with the clauses of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord.

Court Minister Adnan Abu 'Awdah has met with FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Bonn and briefed him on the accord's details and the Jordanian-Palestinian joint move to achieve a just and durable peace in the Middle East. Abu 'Awdah had met earlier with Sir Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, for the same purpose.

He also met with Richard Luce, British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs and acquainted him with the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and the positive points it contains on the road toward joint action to achieve peace in the Middle East. The court minister's visit to Britain came before British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her secretary of state left for Washington, where the main topic of the British- U.S. talks was the Middle East issue.

Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has returned to Amman from Baghdad after he delivered a message from His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the formula of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint move to achieve a peaceful and just settlement of the Palestine question.

Trade Minister Returns From Talks in Bahrain

JN211548 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Amman, 21 Feb (PETRA) — Dr Jawad al-'Anani, minister of trade and industry, has said that Jordan and Bahrain have agreed to conduct a study to increase Jordanian exports to Bahrain and to export ammonium fluoride.

Returning to Amman today after a tour of Bahrain and the UAE, during which he participated in the inauguration of the Jordanian products fair in Bahrain, Dr Jawad al-'Anani added that he held talks with senior officials of both countries that dealt with ways of promoting economic cooperation. He said that the trade agreement between Jordan and Bahrain was ratified.

Road Linking Aqaba With Egypt Opens in April

JN211240 Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 21-27 Feb 85 p 24

[Text] Amman *(STAR)* — A new overland route linking Aqaba with Nuwaybi' in Egypt will be officially opened in the presence of both Egyptian and Jordanian prime ministers on 25 April, 1985. Minister of Transport Mr Farhi 'Ubayd said that the route will take travellers only 8 hours, instead of the 18 hours voyage by sea route. Transport fares, the minister pointed out, will be cut down by sixty per cent for passengers taking the new route. A ticket from Aqaba to Nuwaybi' will cost only 20 Egyptian pounds and from Nuwaybi' to Cairo between 12-18 Egyptian pounds by Bolman Buses. Also, cost of transporting goods will be decreased by 50 percent when the new route is opened for vehicular traffic. Mr 'Ubayd said that the authorities in Egypt and Jordan are now taking necessary steps to start the operation of the overland route.

The Ports Corporation is constructing an arrival building to house customs, passport and security offices at the southern coast of Aqaba and it is expected to be completed by the end of March. Studies, according to the minister, are underway to establish direct bus services between Amman and Cairo. The Jordanian side is exploring the possibility to ply buses on the route between Aqaba and Amman. Minister 'Ubayd pointed out that trucks will be allowed to ply on the new route between the two countries based on permits issued by the International Automobile club.

AL-RA'Y Comments on Rabin's 'Ironhanded' Policy

JN211104 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Feb 85 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Rabin and the Terrorist Hand"]

[Text] The ironhanded policy, or rather the terrorist-handed policy, that Yitzhaq Rabin announced will be practiced in southern Lebanon will not give reassurance to the terrified occupation soldiers, nor will it belittle the effects of the humiliating Israeli pullout from Sidon or prevent the Lebanese resistance from exploiting these effects and chasing the aggressors wherever they are present on Lebanese soil. It will not prevent the Palestinian resistance in the usurped Palestinian land from taking the appropriate lessons out of what occurred and what is occurring in southern Lebanon. It is time for the Israeli leadership to realize and respect this fact. The legend of the unbeatable Israeli Army vanished a long time ago in the battles of Al-Karamah, the Suez crossing, the Golan Heights, and other battles that the regular Arab armies entered. The same legend is now collapsing before the Lebanese resistance in the same way it did before the Palestinian commando steadfastness during the Beirut siege. This means that the terrorism that the Israeli forces are practicing against the unarmed people in Lebanese villages will not pass without punishment and that the Lebanese resistance will undoubtedly force the aggressors to pay the price.

It should be recalled that this outcome ought to stimulate the Arabs to mobilize and reinforce their capabilities in order to become the strong arm that supports the Arabs' trend toward peace and, at the same time, forces the aggressors to reconsider

their calculations, abandon their arrogance, and accept the efforts being exerted to bring about a true peace in the region.

The Israeli "no's" that aborted the peace initiatives, and the ironhanded policy Rabin is threatening to adopt in Lebanon, as well as the savage practices that the gangs of Israeli settlers are carrying out in the occupied West Bank, suggest that the Israeli leadership needs a violent shock to awaken it. No doubt the building up of a strong Arab solidarity, the cornerstone of which is the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, will be able to create this shock. Likewise, it will be able to create a new equation in the region that takes Arab rights into consideration and puts an end to the Israeli obsession that is now dressed in the so-called ironhanded policy. The Israeli scheme for resisting peace by terrorism has become exposed before the entire world. While the Arabs have to depend on their unified abilities to confront the evil scheme, the international community is asked to play a genuine role in combatting the same scheme. This is because this scheme does not only imply a challenge of Arab rights, but also implies unlimited dangers that threaten the region. This danger is likely to include other regions of the world as well.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Views Role of Media, PLO Accord

JN211318 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
21 Feb 85 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Journalism and the Joint Responsibility"]

[Text] "It is the right of the press to know and to be acquainted with minute details of events and developments. It has the right to know before others." The prime minister began his talks with the press and media family with this introductory remark. From his talk, we came to know that this family was the first to know after the decisionmakers and the first to see the details of the [Jordanian-PLO] agreement after the Council of Ministers. This highlights the importance the state attaches to the media in our country. It shows the efforts of the state and the government, which is the executive instrument of this state, to enlighten the press, hold dialogue with it, and find a basis of understanding and responsible interaction between the media and the country's decisionmakers.

In more than 3 hours of discussion and explanation, we did not find that the government was obdurate in its opinion or sensitive about any subject. On the contrary, we found the government extremely understanding in terms of the nature of the journalist's work, the diversity of issues with which journalism is dealing, and the various levels of literary production within the press. There is a conviction that the journalist's simplest duties and responsibilities are knowledge, the need for patience, and diligent efforts to find the truth. He should form his opinion on the basis of facts and the development of events, and on their dimensions and circumstances. It is not enough for the writer to publish the wrong story in order to extricate the true one. The true word and the special national and social responsibility of the writer or thinker call on him to delve deeply into facts and to renounce fanaticism or tendentiousness.

The joint responsibility of the press and state requires a common ground of understanding, knowledge, and awareness of the issues that are being discussed or presented. The nature of these issues requires a certain level of awareness of their dimensions. Writing is a joint responsibility that transcends the writer's responsibility as an individual. The writer will put his message through only if he is aware of details in terms of events and information. The written word will lose its significance if it is based on speculation, fanaticism, and taunting, and if it is written just to record new positions.

Despite the fact that the discussion with the prime minister did not go beyond the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, the concatenation of events that led to it, and the significance of this agreement on national, Arab, and international levels, the dialogue expanded to include various Arab and international aspects that are connected with this agreement. The discussion took into consideration the hopes and fears, the short-term and long-term possibilities, and the various challenges on the Arab and international levels. The discussion was an invitation to deal with the truth through logical reasoning and to tackle each subject according to its intellectual and professional merits.

It was clear that the requirements of political action within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian move had been placed before the brothers and friends without any reservations and in accordance with clear convictions in light of the political realities. These convictions are open to logical discussion and analysis because they are based on firm principles and a clear mechanism. Their aim is to extricate the nation from its present state of retardation and push the wheel of peace in our country forward in order to do something positive and practical about giving the occupied territory a just and comprehenisve peace.

The Jordanian-Palestinian move is not an axis, but a broad Arab front and an attempt to stem the general paralysis and retrogression in the Arab action. Its aim is to present a convincing alternative around which an Arab and international movement will gather in order to remove the Zionist expansion and threats. It is an open invitation for a move within the framework of the Arab and international resolutions and within a special Jordanian- Palestinian relationship that respects the rigat of the Palestinian people to self-determination on their soil and the right of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples to formulate an equitable, constitutional relationship after the liberation.

The agreement does not spring from any initiative or proposal that is currently in circulation, but from principles that the Arabs have approved and which were passed by successive UN resolutions. It is not a response to a ready peace plan submitted by this or that side, but an attempt to guide the ship of peace amid rough seas, in which many peace opportunities have drowned as a result of misunderstanding, ill will, and the failure of those concerned with the cause to direct the movement of events effecting them. The Jordanian-Palestinian move is an attempt to bridge the gap in our cause, which has been moved from the center of international attention. It is a push forward in Arab political action after long phases of retrogression that prompted the enemy to settle in our land, officially annex it, and hold our nation, rights, and existence — both in our land itself and at the international forums — in contempt.

Al-Jumayyil Cited on Political, Security Issues

NC220840 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Some newspapers have quoted President of the Republic Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil as telling his visitors that the second phase of the [Israeli] withdrawal would be more difficult than the first one, because the Sidon region is different than the region for the second phase of the withdrawal. In Sidon there had been harmony, interlinks, and cooperation for some time. During the second phase there will be numerous other areas which will have access to each other. Jazzin will have access to Sidon, and Al-Nabatiyah to Mashgharah. The villages there are distributed among the various communities. There is a mosaic which, if we are able to understand it in all its forms and contradictions, will enable us to put Lebanon on the right course.

Visitors to the Presidential Palace have been quoted as saying that the regime believes there are two conditions for securing success in the second phase of the withdrawal and for filling the vacuum. These two conditions are speeding up the minimum level of internal reconciliation and concentrating on tackling the withdrawal question. President al-Jumayyil considers that any Byzantine, futile, and confrontational argument will affect the popular base because it will agitate and detonate the situation in the south after withdrawal.

The visitors to the Presidential Palace added that President al-Jumayyil called for the minimum level of unity of ranks by stopping offensive statements, so as to cultivate the appropriate climate for maintaining security and for preventing clashes in the second phase of the withdrawal areas. The president of the republic also asked that attention not be diverted by aimless discussion while the enemy is at the doors. This does not mean, and should not be taken as such by some people, that we will not carry out the reforms. These are on the table and need to be dealt with. But there are priorities and we have to face a test very soon. We would be committing suicide if we mix priorities.

President Amin al-Jumayyil called for freeing the Lebanese Army from the burdens of the combat lines so that it can shoulder its responsibility in the region from which Israel will withdraw in the second phase. The regime believes that a number of Army brigades can be dispensed with in Beirut if a cease-fire is reached, which will calm the combat lines and will allow a military force to be sent to the south.

The visitors cited President al-Jumayyil as saying that the regime needs the various legitimate security organs in the south to control the situation and to prevent any clashes, the more so, as we do not know what Israel will be leaving behind there. President al-Jumayyil believes that if the Army stays on the combat lines for disengagement purposes between two villages or two streets, we will lose the opportunity to free the Army and send it to the south to fill the vacuum after the second phase of the withdrawal.

The president expressed regret over what happened during the armed demonstration in Sidon last Monday. To those who criticized his visit to Sidon in the company of Prime Minister Karami, he said: Is it not the right of the legitimate authority to go to Sidon after its liberation? Is it not also the right of this authority to celebrate the victory of Sidon?

The president was pained by the Lebanese flag burning incident, as such matters only serve the enemy. While appreciating all the interacting trends in the Lebanese arena, he said that it was regrettable that these trends are interacting on Lebanese soil in the interest of others.

The visitors also quoted President al-Jumayyil as expressing his satisfaction and contentment over the Lebanese-Syrian relations, which he said were characterized by full coordination, cordiality, and respect. The president added there must be changes in the Lebanese and regional situations which will serve the Lebanese line and secure to a large extent Lebanon's stability. There are indications from abroad in this direction, particularly the ongoing U.S.-Soviet dialogue in Vienna.

According to the visitors, President al-Jumayyil believes that some of the parties are adopting offensive and negative stands, which might be well intentioned, or might have been dictated by internal circumstances. When he searches his soul, a man must admit that he will find out that reconciliation is contingent on purity of heart. He added: If many people had been frank with their society, as I have been, and had appreciated the change that has taken place in the party which I represent, then we could have overcome many problems. But, unfortunately, the leaders have become the prisoners of their popular stands. Who today is capable of giving anything?

Reportage on Israeli Actions Against Southern Villages

Dayr Qanun al-Nahr 'Siege'

NC210743 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0707 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Following a 3-day siege of Dayr Qanun al-Nahr by the Israeli forces, at 0600 this morning the Israeli enemy waged a fierce attack against the township with tanks and armored vehicles. This attack was preceded by violent shelling. Soldiers were dispatched by helicopter inside the township. The citizens bravely confronted the enemy, using stones or whatever else they could find. It has been reported that there are many casualties, either killed or wounded.

8 Killed in Confrontation

NC211326 [Clandestine] Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Israeli forces today stormed 'Arab Salim township, clashed with the inhabitants, and arrested some of them.

In a statement, the inhabitants of 'Arab Salim said that the confrontation with the Israelis led to the death of eight inhabitants and the wounding of others. The dead include 'Ali Muhammad Farhat, Ahmad Khalil Farhat, 'Atif Farhat, and Muhammad Maghliyah.

Israelis Enter Southern Villages

NC211424 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1340 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The Zionist enemy is committing massacres in several southern villages. The entire world is ignoring the details as if the matter concerned no one. Like the world, Lebanese officials have made no moves so far other than uttering statements and denunciations. No moves have been made toward the United Nations, its Security Council, or major states to put an end to the enemy's barbaric crimes and the savage and suppressive actions by its forces against the sons of the struggling villages.

The villages of Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, Al-Bazuriyah, Tayr Dibbah, Ma'rakah, Al-Zrariyah, and 'Arab Salim in the south and in Al-Qir'awn are encircled. Violent confrontations are taking place between inhabitants and the occupation forces in some villages. Dayr Qanun al-Nahr is still coming under fire from the enemy's tanks and guns. The villages of Al-Bazuriyah, Tayr Dibbah, and Ma'ramakah are coming under similar fire.

Preliminary reports assert that Dayr Qanun al-Nahr is living the inferno of a real battle. So far the enemy has failed to enter it, despite the fall of martyrs and wounded and the destruction of many houses. Reports say that a parachuting operation has failed, and that the inhabitants are defending the township with unique courage. The reports add that the villages in Tyre District are surrounded and that the sound of explosions can be heard from far away. There have been no additional details about what is taking place on the ground.

The occupation forces raided Al-Zrariyah last night. They destroyed three houses belonging to Sharif Hashim, Ahmad 'Abbas Zurqut, and Khalil 'Izzu. They arrested more than 20 citizens including Muhammad 'Izzu and 3 others from the 'Abbas clan.

UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel today confirmed in Tyre that an Israeli force consisting of 17 army personnel carriers, 14 military vehicles, and 1 bulldozer entered Dayrn Qanun al-Nahr at 0730 today. He said that another unit consisting of 27 army personnel carriers, 13 military cars, and 1 bulldozer entered Tayr Dibbah. He added that Israeli soldiers assembled the inhabitants in the schools of both villages to question them, and that the inhabitants set fire to tires in the roads and stoned the military cars.

The occupation forces continue to besiege Al-Qir'awn in western Al-Biqa' for the third consecutive day. Enemy soldiers opened random fire in the township's streets and quarters this morning, wounding three teachers of the Al-Qir'awn school. One of the teachers comes from the 'Assaf family in Hilalah Township.

Resistance Claims Israeli Arrested

NC211425 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] At 0730 this morning, resistance fighters attacked an occupation forces patrol near the approach to Al-'Abbasiyah, damaging one vehicle and one truck, and killing or wounding their occupants. Afterward, a supportive force surrounded and searched the area. Ambulances rushed to the scene to remove the dead and wounded. However, the resistance fighters were lying in wait and attacked the supportive force, and clashed with it for 10 minutes. They arrested an enemy soldier and wounded an officer. A statement issued by the Lebanese national front says that a large number of the occupation forces came to the area. They raided the town and demanded that the mukhtar hand over 70 youths in 48 hours. They also killed Husayn 'Abdallah Ghazal 'Izz al-Din.

Amal Calls for Meeting

NC211439 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Following the escalation of repressive Israeli measures — which reached their peak with the shelling of villages, the demolition of houses, and the opening of fire on innocent people — and in the wake of what happened in Al-Zrariyah, which was stormed by the Israelis, the Amal movement's leadership in the south has stepped up its contacts to confront these developments.

Such incidents are regarded as a serious indication that could jeopardize the role of the Lebanese Army if the Israeli aggressions continue against villages where the Lebanese Army is deployed. The movement's leadership held contacts with various leading figures and invited them to a meeting at 1500 today in Harat Sayda in Sidon to discuss all these developments.

UN Envoy To Submit Complaint to Security Council

NC211159 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1138 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has asked Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent UN delegate, to submit a complaint to the UN Security Council about arbitrary practices by Israelis in occupied Lebanese territory.

The ministry told Ambassador Fakhuri that Lebanon reserves the right to ask for a meeting of the council. It also asked him to brief UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar on these practices so that he may authorize UN officials in southern Lebanon to carry out the necessary investigations.

Islamic Jihad Front Issues Warning to Israel

NC211456 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1350 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] We have just been informed that an unidentified person contacted the Voice of Arab Lebanon, saying that he speaks for the Islamic Jihad organization. He said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, the Islamic Jihad organization — the southern suicdial wing — declares the following:

Following the announcement by Yitzhaq Rabin that he will adopt an ironfisted policy, and after the filthy practices by this

Zionist enemy, to which we have become accustomed, we declare the following:

We give the Israeli enemy a 3-hour grace period from 1600 to 1900 to lift the siege from all the besieged cities and villages and leave these areas immediately, or else we will adopt the strongest and most violent measures against his soldiers. One of the groups of the laughing death [al-Mawt al-Dahik] is prepared to carry out suicidal operations through new means which have not occurred in the mind of any man. We vow that as of the expiration of the fixed period, the south will be set aflame; it will shake under their feet as Beirut shook under the feet of their masters — the great devil. We are the stronger and we will remain the stronger. God's peace and blessings be with you. [end recording]

Islamic Groups To Retaliate

NC211815 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1745 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] We have received the following statement from the Islamic resistance front, the forces of martyr Shaykh Raghib Harb, the suicidal groups:

We address this warning to the Zionist enemy: We will retaliate harshly. Our suicide groups will begin their retaliation within 5 hours, beginning at 1930 today, if the Zionist enemy does not lift his siege of the besieged villages. Victory is for the heroic strugglers, peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Amal Official Denounces Sidon Events, Israeli Measures

NC211636 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Colonel 'Akif Haydar, head of the Amal movement's political bureau, denounced the recent armed demonstration which took place in Sidon, and called for sparing the town from the consequences of plots and exploitation.

He also denounced the vicious Israeli onslaught against the struggling villages in the south, maintaining that this will neither deter the people's determination nor prevent the continuation of resistance operations for the liberation of all Lebanese territory from the Israeli occupation.

In a statement made today, Colonel Haydar said: We are eager to spare valiant Sidon the consequences of plots and exploitation because the success of resistance operations depends on strengthening the liberated areas so that they can support the cause of liberation and its requirements. This has been our concern in West Beirut, the southern suburb, and the mountain after 6 February. In agreement with Sidon's leaders and all nationalist parties, we announce our position regarding the need to neutralize Sidon, to keep party offices there closed, and to ban the appearance of gunmen, leaving the question of security to the national army and to the legitimate forces.

Colonel Haydar said: The large demonstration in Sidon proved that we were right in being concerned. Destroying stores is a barbaric matter, and tearing the national flag is a rude, treasonous action. Such a thing should not have taken place in such a large gathering.

Colonel Haydar added: The social imbalance and the political contradiction must not govern the liberation march and desecrate the blood of martyrs. Brandishing weapons hampers the liberation march unless such weapons are directed against Israel, which is still committing its ugliest crimes.

The head of the Amal movement political bureau said: The Israeli artillery and air bombardment of Al-Bazuriyah, Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, and other struggling villages in the south will not decrease our determination to continue the resistance until the liberation of the last inch of land. Let Israel know that the national resistance in the south is sustained by Israel's violence and crimes. Everything that Israel does strengthens the resistance and does not weaken it.

Socialists Reportedly Planning New Attacks on French

NC220607 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that the Progressive Socialist Party has drawn up plans to attack posts manned by French observers on all combat lines in the mountain area. The attacks are to take place during the negotiations to reopen the Damascus road.

Security officials have evidence and voice recordings incriminating Junblatt's followers in the assassination of the French officer in Al-Shuwayfat.

Karami on Economic, Social Crisis, State Rights

NC211245 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami met this morning with a delegation of the national popular committee fighting high prices and monopoly. Karami received a note from the delegation containing proposals for dealing with the current economic and social crisis.

Karami told the delegation that the government understands the committee's concern and that it is exerting intensive efforts to deal with the current economic situation and to subdue price rises.

Karami said that every citizen is concerned in these difficult circumstances through which the country is passing, and that every citizen is required to cooperate in overcoming the crisis, which has its roots in the continuing 10-year long bloody crisis and which has hit the core of the state's institutions, partitioned the homeland, cut the roads, disrupted industry and agriculture, and has led to loss of the treasury's lawful revenue.

He added: We are exerting our utmost efforts to emerge from this situation, but the question requires time, patience, and perseverance. Each of us must be aware of his responsibility and this responsibility must inspire our deeds. Production must be

reactivated, work opportunities must be ensured for workers, and labor legislation in industry and other sectors must be enacted.

The prime minister affirmed the determination to make reforms in all sectors and in official departments to ensure the citizens' security and to retrieve the state's rights from those who violated them. He said that the government is open to dialogue and to a discussion of any positive proposal.

The members of the delegation praised Prime Minister Karami's patriotism and stances and said that their action can support the official inclination to achieve the goals which the prime minister noted in his speech on retrieving the state's rights.

Al-Husayni Returns to Beirut From Damascus

NC211529 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni returned to Beirut at 1630 today from Damascus following a 2-day official working visit to the Syrian capital during which he, and a large Lebanese parliamentary delegation, met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and congratulated him on the occasion of his reelection to a new term of office.

Speaker al-Husayni met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam this morning and they discussed the situation in Lebanon.

Army Erects Barricades Near U.S. Embassy

NC220844 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The Lebanese Army reopened the Al-Barbir road a short while ago. Socialist and communist gunmen closed the road this morning by laying tires across it, and setting them alight. The Army erected barricades near the U.S. Embassy and the Al-Barbir bridge, and instituted patrols in West Beirut to prevent any disruption of the security situation.

Meanwhile, the Internal Security Forces have begun using emergency forces to patrol West Beirut. According to reports from the security forces, traffic came to a standstill due to the strike staged against the high cost of living. Communist and socialist gunmen are roaming the streets to ensure that all shops are closed.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese Front Delegation

JN211542 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1255 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 21 Feb (SANA) — At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received a Lebanese National Democratic Front delegation led by its Secretary General 'Asim Qansuh and members Riyad Ra'd, Najah Wakim, 'Ali 'Id, 'Umar Harb, Nadim 'Abd al-Samad, 'Abd al-Amir 'Abbas, Akram Shu'ayb, George Batal, Fayyad Haydar, Mahmud 'Abd al-Khaliq, and Awud Baz.

The delegation conveyed to the president the congratulations of the parties, organizations, and the national and progressive Lebanese figures who are members of the Front on the occasion of his reelection to a new constitutional term.

The delegation members expressed their conviction that the unanimous confidence which the masses of the Syrian Arab people have in the leadership of President al-Asad is an expression of the people's belief in his vanguard and courageous leadership and his anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist policy which has made Syria the center of the Arab national liberation movement and the vanguard of pan-Arab action.

The Lebanese National Democratic Front delegation conveyed the fraternal Lebanese people's gratitude for the support of the president and fraternal Syria in their struggle to expel the Israeli invaders and achieve their objectives.

The delegation expressed confidence that Lebanon will receive from President al-Asad, in his third constitutional term, support and great care to help it overcome the obstacles and hardships that obstruct its march and the achievement of its national objectives.

The president thanked the delegation for their congratulations and sentiments. Al-Asad expressed his pride in the noble and good feelings which the fraternal Lebanese people expressed on the occasion of his reelection to a new constitutional term. He also asked the delegation to convey his gratitude and greetings to the Lebanese brothers.

The president asserted that Syria will continue to stand at the side of Lebanon in its battle to expel the Israeli invaders from Lebanese territories, to entrench Lebanese national unity, and to exercise the natural Lebanese role in its Arab surroundings.

The president said that what links Syria and Lebanon is stronger than all the schemes of the enemies of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arabs and constitutes a basis for cooperation and joint action for the sake of common objectives.

He said that the Lebanese will always find Syria as the brother who will spare no efforts to assist Lebanon, support it, and not retreat in the face of sacrifices that are needed to help the fraternal country.

The president expressed to the Lebanese National Democratic Front delegation his optimism for the future and his confidence in the ability of the fraternal Lebanese people to liberate their land from the Israeli invaders and proceed successfully on the road toward national accord and security.

Lebanese Speaker Sees Need for 'Increased Support'

NC210717 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] At his news conference in Damascus, Husayn al-Husayni, Lebanese Chamber of Deputies speaker, said that by their valiant resistance the Lebanese people have proved to be the strongest chain in the Arab area while not forgetting the fraternal Syrian support in our battle against the enemy.

Speaker al-Husayni added: At our meeting with President al-Asad we conveyed our joy and happiness over his reelection. We reviewed questions of mutual interest, particularly that of safeguarding the great national achievement in forcing Israel to withdraw from Sidon.

This calls for increased support so that Lebanon will be able to consolidate its Army, which alone can maintain law and order, and to enable the resistance to maintain its march for liberation.

He said that President al-Asad's views are in agreement with the views of all the Lebanese on the need to speed up the unity of the Army and to develop its capability so it can ensure stability in various areas.

Speaker al-Husayni is due to return to Beirut today after spending last night in Damascus. Today Al-Husayni will have further talks with Syrian officials. He is due to meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Peres on PLO-Jordan Accord, Lebanon
TA221104 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0949 GMT 22 Feb 85

[News conference held by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman in the VIP lounge at Ben-Gurion Airport following their return from visits to Italy and Romania — live]

[Text] [Peres] Over a 3-day period Minister 'Ezer Weizman and I visited two capitals where we met with three leaders. One is, of course, the religious authority of the Catholic world. In both a meeting we held with the pope, and in an earlier meeting with Vatican leaders dealing with political issues, we were able to conduct open and frank talks.

In regard to the Vatican, I can say that at the moment there are no burning problems between us. We had a good opportunity to explain Israel's positions — both the immediate positions and the long-term ones — in detail.

The other authority, of course, is Italy, a country where we have many friends, to which we are geographically close, and with which we have a wide variety of historical ties. We held a very moving meeting with Italian President Pertini, and we held a number of meetings with the Italian prime minister, which were good working sessions. As you know, the Italian prime minister opposes an international [Middle East peace] conference and has promised to help us in regard to our requests in the agricultural sphere vis-a-vis the EEC.

These requests are — to maintain the quotas on agricultural exports; to refrain from creating difficulties for agricultural exports and to give us a fair chance to compete with other agricultural exporters; and to discuss these matters even before the agreement with Spain and Portugal is signed.

We discussed matters of bilateral interest also with the Romanian president, prime minister, and other Cabinet members. We agreed to try to promote economic issues, tourism, and political relations. The Romanian president believes that the next best step is to convene an international — or other — conference using the United Nations as a tool.

We told him that we are not opposed to the United Nations, but we cannot support such a conference in light of the behavior of some UN members or some potential guests to negotiations with the United Nations. How can one call for an international conference when among the participants is a superpower that has severed its ties with us, another country that has never recognized us, and a third country that wants to eliminate us, and a terrorist organization that kills civilians?

Anyone who wants an international conference must change either the international composition or the conditions that have thus far existed.

All in all, I think that Mr Weizman and I encountered a very encouraging attitude. We encountered eagerness to hear what we had to say. We were given the opportunity to explain Israel's positions in detail. And although not everything has been concluded, the door has been left open to allow us to continue such contacts in the future as well.

I must also add that the media demonstrated a very fair and warm attitude toward us wherever we were, and that we too were naturally quite moved when we met with Jews — particularly in the synagogue in Rome, to which hundreds of excited Jews came to salute Israel; and in the main synagogue of Bucharest where, again, some 1,500 Jews came and were greatly excited and eager to hear a live message from Israel.

[Voice of Israel party affairs correspondent Amnon Nadav] Mr Prime Minister, since this is a live broadcast, with your permission let us digress a bit from the political issue. The reason there are such great expectations regarding your return is that the package deal appears to be threatened as a result of the 25 percent price increases that have occurred. The industrialists want to meet with you. Is the package deal in danger?

[Peres] The truth is that I have not yet heard a report from the finance minister, and I can only react after I talk to him.

[Nadav] Still, will you hold meetings over the weekend?

[Peres] I always meet with everyone I need to. There is no problem in that respect.

[IDF Radio political correspondent 'Oz Frankel] Mr Prime Minister, in light of the talks you held in Italy and Romania, do you have a different view of the so-called Husayn-'Arafat initiative? And how do you assess the chances for a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process?

[Peres] I know more about the positions of the men with whom I spoke and the information they have. I cannot say that the all in all the picture has changed. I think politically and militarily Israel should operate in accordance with its own priorities — to end our involvement in Lebanon, improve our relations with Egypt, and try to launch a real dialogue with Jordan and Palestinian representatives who do not belong to the PLO.

[Nadav] Did you receive from either Romanian President Ceausescu or Italian Prime Minister Craxi any message that would indicate that Husayn truly intends to join the political negotiations?

[Peres] They told me about the messages they had received. If your question is whether a direct message was given to me, then the answer is no. The messages they received did not surprise me, as I already knew more or less what was agreed upon in Amman.

[Television political correspondent Yoram Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, before you left on your trip, did you and the finance minister agree on a 25 percent increase in the price of basic commodities?

[Peres] No, we did not, nor was there need for this because there are specific dates for increasing the subsidies, which automatically entail price increases. However, as I said, I have not heard the report of the finance minister, and I do not know precisely what happened today.

[Ronen] But according to the package deal, did you agree to a 25 percent increase in the price of subsidized goods?

[Peres] In coordination and in agreement with the Histadrut and the industrialists, the subsidies were to be cut on three dates: The first would involve $800 million — that has already been done — and on the subsequent dates the amount each time would be $200 million. However, I simply truly do not know exactly what happened today or yesterday.

[Ronen] Do you not fear that these cuts will result in an inflationary spiral?

[Peres] I do not know exactly how vast the cut was, and therefore I cannot answer you.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, do you think that as a result of your talks in Europe there is a greater chance that Husayn will become more sympathetic to the negotiations?

[Peres] First of all, I think there are greater chances that Europe will draw closer to us. I think that a campaign is going on in Europe between the Arabs and us to put forward the PLO's positions and ours, and I am sure that Europe is not lost to us, and that if we do the right job and explain ourselves properly, we can definitely gain many points. I have never given up the idea of holding a dialogue with Jordan.

[Ronen] Finally, do you think — in light of the increased wave of terrorism in Lebanon — that there is a point to rediscussing our withdrawal plans?

[Peres] A debate has in any case been scheduled for next week.

[Ronen] By the Cabinet?

[Peres] By the Cabinet and its institutions, and I would prefer to confer with the defense minister and with members of the General Staff Command before I express an opinion about specific dates.

[Ronen] Cold you conceive of a possibility that the withdrawal would be accelerated or advanced?

[Peres] I will express my opinion after I have checked the situation.

'Ezer, maybe you would like to add somcthing? Is there any question for him?

[Ronen] May I ask 'Ezer the same question?

[Peres] Go ahead.

[Ronen] Do you think that what happend in Lebanon last week is cause for speeding up the withdrawal?

[Weizman] Look, during this trip more than in any other trip or situation, I traveled very close to the prime minister. [laughter]

Accelerated Withdrawal Ruled Out

TA221203 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by David Essing during news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport following Peres' return from visits to Italy and Romania on 22 February — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Essing] Mr Prime Minister, during your absence the Israeli Army in south Lebanon has taken what has been described as a get-tough policy with the terrorists in the area. How would you describe this policy and, secondly, do you think in light of the increased attacks on Israeli forces in Lebanon that the government should consider speeding up the withdrawal?

[Peres] No, sir. I think we have to implement our plans as they were planned. I wouldn't suggest that we shall change our plans because there were attacks. Whoever does it will invite more attacks. But, anyway, the government is supposed to meet this week and deal with the second stage of our withdrawal. And I shall express my own views after I shall check it with the minister of defense and the chief of staff.

[Essing] And how would you describe the policy of today? Is it a get-tough policy?

[Peres] I think it's the right policy and that the dates [of the next stages of the withdrawal] were a little bit kept open. So, I mean, we have our choice how fast or how slow to do it. The plans that were taken in accordance with the recommendation of the Army took into account not only the acts of the terrorists but the needs or our Army — and we are not going to run away unnecessarily or just because they are being attacked. But, we shall learn all the facts and make our decisions, I believe, in the right way and with a cold mind.

[Essing] Mr Peres, you've talked about the impossibility of holding an international peace conference because of the stands of some of the participants. We understand that President Ceausescu has pledged to help improve relations between Israel and Russia, for example. What steps has the president said he is going to take and what would constitute a change in Israeli- Russian relationships that would allow Israel to consider such a conference?

[Peres] Well, the minimum that one can expect from Soviet Russia is to renew relations and take a more middle position, not a one-sided position. And, then, China too is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and I believe the time has come when China will establish relations with Israel as well. Now, I cannot commit President Ceausescu about the steps he may take, but I believe he is fully aware of our position.[as heard]

Peres Visits Romania, Meets With Ceausescu

For Israeli and Romanian media coverage of the visit to Romania by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres on 21-22 February, including his talks with President Nicolae Ceausescu and Premier Constantin Dascalescu, and Peres' remarks at a press conference

prior to departure, see the Romania section of the 22 February Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Shamir on Attacks on IDF, Talks With Husayn

TA211554 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by correspondent Qobi Mandel on 21 February; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Mandel] Mr Vice Prime Minister, we have recently witnessed a spate of attacks on our soldiers in southern Lebanon. At the same time, there has been talk about accelerating the withdrawal from Lebanon. How do you regard the situation? Is there room today to talk about an accelerated withdrawal?

[Shamir] Well, there is a Cabinet decision to pull the IDF out of Lebanon. I assume that the IDF has worked out contingency plans to adjust to developments, and that the decision will be carried out one of these days.

In the course of its implementation, we must see to several points — the reduction or halt to the attacks against the IDF to the extent possible, and the ensurance of the appropriate arrangements to maintain peace in the Galilee. These are the two main considerations which must determine the IDF's moves these days as well.

As far as the attacks are concerned, the IDF has taken a great many preventive measures which, we all hope, will achieve their purpose and prove to the various terrorists that they cannot continue to attack the IDF and get off scot-free, without being seriously punished.

[Mandel] Mr Shamir, the IDF has recently enforced a method of contextual punishment. Is this the right answer?

[Shamir] I do not know whether this could be termed contextual punishment. However, what the IDF has been doing is first of all right. There is no justification whatsoever for the current attacks on the IDF because the perpetrators know that the IDF is evacuating Lebanon — and, after all, that is their aim.

Therefore they have no justification, and thus the IDF is entitled to hit the perpetrators and their accomplices. As long as the attacks do not stop, the IDF must unhesitatingly go on treading this path.

[Mandel] Mr Shamir, during his visit in Romania the prime minister stated that he would be prepared to go to Amman to conduct a dialogue with King Husayn. In light of the agreement with 'Arafat, is it possible to talk with Husayn at present?

[Shamir] We know what we want, and what we want is to make peace with our neighbors. Jordan is a neighboring country and we want to make peace with it. If Jordan agrees to enter peace negotiations with us, we must go ahead with it. From what we have learned so far about the agreement between Jordan and the PLO, Jordan is apparently not ready for it. However, for our part, we are prepared.

Katyusha Attacks; Hebron Settlement

TA211759 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir thinks Israel should use every possible means to stop the attacks on IDF soldiers in Lebanon or, at least, decrease them greatly. He emphasized that the Cabinet will decide on the pace of the withdrawal from Lebanon in accordance with various considerations. Today Minister Shamir held a news conference in the Rambam Hospital, Haifa, and Gershon Meller brings us some of his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Meller] The katyushas that fell on the Golan Heights today do not prove that the Syrians intend to heat up the border, Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said. No hasty conclusions should be drawn; such things have happened before. Nor does Mr Shamir find any connection between the increase of terrorism in southern Lebanon and what is happening in Judaea and Samaria. Lebanon is not Eretz Yisra'el, the rules are different, and the conditions are different. Mr Shamir justifies the iron fist policy now being used in Lebanon.

[Shamir] I do not think we have to hurry to draw such conclusions; this is not the first case and we need to see how matters develop and act accordingly.

[Meller] The vice prime minister does not understand why there is any problem involved in settling in Khirbat al-Rumaythah in Hebron.

[Shamir] I see nothing in this that should arouse any opposition by anyone. There is a decision by the Government of Israel to establish a Jewish colony in Hebron, and Khirbat al-Rumaythah is part of Hebron.

[Meller] On the Husayn-'Arafat agreement, Mr Shamir repeated: We do not yet know the full details and it is still too soon to judge but, undoubtedly, as far as we are concerned, it has no significance. [end recording]

1 'Terrorist' Killed, 2 Wounded in Lebanon

TA211712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The IDF today killed 1 terrorist and wounded 2 others, detained suspects, and demolished 13 houses during searches in 4 villages in southern Lebanon. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that IDF troops marched into the villages of Al-Zrariyah, Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, Tayr Dibbah, and 'Arab Salim. In Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, three suspects attempted to flee; one of them was killed while the other two were wounded. In Al-Zrariyah, the houses of four terrorists were demolished and several suspects were detained.

In 'Arab Salim, the houses of eight terrorists were demolished, suspects were detained, and large quantities of weapons were uncovered. The IDF troops left the villages this evening. Our correspondent notes that these operations will continue

38 Expelled From Village

TA212020 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1930 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The IDF expelled 38 inhabitants of the Shi'ite village of 'Arab Salim from the area in Lebanon under its control. Our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden reports that those expelled had been involved in hostile terrorist activities, and that sabotage materiel was found in their homes. This evening the IDF lifted the curfew which had been imposed on the village.

IDF Operations To Continue

TA220625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] IDF operations in hostile southern Lebanese villages will continue, senior officers have told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal. They believe that this activity has yielded good results, and perhaps now the attacks on our soldiers will decrease. Several dozen people suspected of hostile activity have recently been expelled into the area that is not under the IDF's control. Others have been detained in the Ansar camp.

Al-Duhayshah Mukhtars Promise To Preserve Calm

TA210958 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Feb 85 p 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The mukhtars of the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp met with Colonel Freddy Zakh, the deputy head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, in Bethlehem yesterday. They discussed ways to organize the camp to prevent disturbances along the main road.

The mukhtars expressed their joy over Levinger's departure from the camp, and promised to calm the tempers in the camp, and even to establish an internal committee to preserve the order.

Colonel Zakh told them that if calm is maintained in the camp, there will be a gradual lifting of the various measures taken to prevent stonethrowing incidents.

Settlers Request Urgent Meeting With Rabin

TA211202 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements on the Golan Heights has requested an urgent meeting with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This follows last night's katyusha rocket attack on the southern Golan. More from Jerry Cheslow:

This was the fifth katyusha rocket attack on the southern Golan in less than a year. This time the two rockets landed close to one of the settlements, causing no damage or casualties. The head of the Council of Settlements, Eytan Lis, said that when he meets the defense minister, he will tell Rabin that the IDF can no longer ignore the attacks.

[Begin Lis recording] We want that the Israel Army will react now, after five times that they shooting us, and we know that the Syrian and the Israeli Governments know where they come from. And we think that now the IDF will act. [end recording]

The area from which the rockets were fired is at the meeting point between the Israeli, Jordanian, and Syrian borders. Israeli defense sources said that reacting is a special problem, because at least one Syrian village, (Shafara), is controlled by Palestinian organizations, but, rather than firing from Syrian territory, they often infiltrate a kilometer across the Jordanian border, shoot at the Golan, and then infiltrate back, so it's difficult to hold either Syria or Jordan solely responsible. Eytan Lis says that action must be taken now. He believes the attackers have to be given a clear message that the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon does not mean open season on Israel's north. Otherwise, when the rains stop and the ground hardens, Lis fears a drastic increase in rocket attacks and, possibly, even infiltrations across the border.

Cars, Police Van Attacked in Gaza

TA220746 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0740 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] There were two attacks on cars last night and this morning in the Gaza Strip. A Molotov cocktail was thrown at a police van in the main street of Rafah last night. It ignited on the road, but did not cause any damage.

Early this morning three unidentified masked men seized a bus transporting female workers from the Jabalyah refugee camp. According to the bus driver's testimony, they threatened him with a hand grenade and ordered him to leave the bus with the passengers. They then set the bus on fire. Our correspondent Gil Ronen reports that the bus is jointly owned by a Jew from Ashqelon and an Arab from Bayt Hanun. The security forces are investigating.

Ne'eman Wants Annexation of Southern Lebanon

TA220715 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Feb 85 p 2

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Conditions in south Lebanon are now ripe for Israel to extend its sovereignty over the region, since Eretz Yisra'el runs up to the Al-Litani River, Tehiya Party Chairman Yuval Ne'eman said in a statement to the press yesterday.

Even if the government does not annex south Lebanon, the Tehiya leader said, it should plan to keep the Israel Defence Forces on the Al-Litani and from 20-25 kilometres beyond the river for many years to come.

Ne'eman said that the IDF should expel from this zone all Shi'ites and other elements not ready to cooperate with Israel. Another "Fatah-land" must never again come into being, he said.

Also yesterday, MK Amal Nasir al-Din (Likud) urged the government to form mobile strike forces to harass terrorists north of the Al-Litani. The area between the Al-Litani and the interna-

tional border should become a military-government zone controlled by the Border Police and the south Lebanese army. All Lebanese unwilling to accept the occupation should be expelled from there, the Druze MK said in a letter.

Minister Shahal Invited To Visit Egypt

TA212030 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1930 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Minister Moshe Shahal has been invited to pay an official visit to Egypt. He will leave for Cairo next week. Our correspondent Nisim Mish'al adds that Minister Shahal met for a long talk this evening with Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel, during which he concluded the details of the visit. Our correspondent emphasizes that this is the first visit by an Israeli minister to Egypt in a long time, and that Jerusalem sees this as a gesture on the part of the Egyptians.

Egypt Sets Terms for Boats at Coral Island

TA212016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Israeli boats will not be allowed to anchor at Coral Island despite President Mubarak's promise. The Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, stated upon his return from Cairo that before this permission can be granted, services should be secured for all those arriving at Coral Island aboard boats and yachts. Our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar reports that Basyuni conferred with the Egyptian foreign minister in Cairo.

Sharon Proposes Linking Shekel to Foreign Currency

TA211751 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon said today that the U.S. Administration's willingness to invest in Israel is not related to budget cuts, but rather to a change in attitude toward the economy. He said this in reaction to the message sent by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, in which the United States makes the increase in aid to Israel conditional on a number of economic measures, including budget cuts, and giving increased authority to the Finance Ministry Budget Department's director. Minister Sharon appeared before members of the Israeli-U.S. Chamber of Commerce at noon today. Our correspondent Uri Ginosar reports on Sharon's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Sharon] In my opinion, the U.S. Administration's willingness to invest in Israel does not depend so much on budget cuts, but rather on a change in the approach toward and processes in the economy.

[Ginosar] To change policy, Sharon believes several daring steps should be taken. The main steps should include legislation prohibiting the printing of money, and linking the shekel to a foreign currency.

[Sharon] I do not see this as a matter of national pride. In my opinion, telling Israel what powers the director of the Finance Ministry's Budget Department should have presents as big a problem of national pride and interference as what I am suggesting. I am proposing that the shekel be linked to the U.S. dollar or to a basket of currencies. There are experts on these matters and they will have to decide.

[Ginosar] At a time when the government has been adopting a series of measures to halt the decline in Israel's foreign currency reserves, Minister Sharon is now proposing the cancellation of control over foreign currency.

[Sharon] I do not think that the use of foreign currency can be prevented through any kind of restriction, law, or punishment. We have 20 clever, knowledgeable, and experienced ministers on the one hand, as well as 3.5 million clever and experienced Jews on the other, and the fact is that the economy keeps running. [end recording]

Knesset Committee Approves Supplementary Budget

TA211616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The Knesset Finance Committee approved a supplementary budget for the current fiscal year of 1,125 billion shekels, the equivalent of approximately $2 billion.

Histadrut, Manufacturers Criticize Subsidy Cuts

TA220627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The price of petroleum products went up in Israel last night by an average of 11 percent. Examples of the new prices: 91 octane petrol will cost 452 shekels, while 96 octane fuel will now be 530 shekels. Kerosene will cost 376 shekels a liter. Diesel fuel will be 360 shekels, and a gas balloon for home use will cost 7,210 shekels.

The government also raised the prices of basic goods last night in a further move to reduce government subsidies. This is the second subsidy cut within the past month, and brought sharp criticism from both the Histadrut and the Manufacturers Association.

Histadrut and Manufacturers Association leaders are to meet with Prime Minister Peres later today as soon as he returns from Romania. Senior officials in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry also criticized the rise in basic food prices. They told a Voice of Israel reporter the move could endanger the entire package deal.

The Histadrut leader, Yisra'el Qeysar, charged that the price rises on subsidized goods are a gross violation of the package deal. He declared that the Treasury acted against the wishes of the prime minister and in contradiction to the agreement signed with the Histadrut. Qeysar demanded that the follow-up committee for the package deal meet immediately to discuss the matter and he also wants a debate in the Knesset.

Treasury Defends Price Hikes

TA220748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0727 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The Treasury expects the February consumer price index to rise by 15 percent, and that was why it was necessary to raise prices of subsidized goods by at least 25 percent [the package deal allows for price increases of 12-13 percent in real terms]. An official statement issued by the Treasury says that the price hikes were carried out in accordance with the package deal agreement, so there is no justification for the arguments raised by the Histadrut and the employers that the package deal has been violated.

Investors Sought for Projects in Zaire

TA220921 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Feb 85 p 2

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Text] At the request of the Israeli Government, businessman Leon Tamman is recruiting European and U.S. investors for projects in Zaire. Not long ago Tamman visited Zaire, where he met with President Sese Seko Mobutu and discussed the investment projects with him. Since the renewal of diplomatic relations between Zaire and Israel, efforts have been made in Israel to direct investments to the African country, but without any appreciable success. Israel is helping to train the Zairian Army, particularly the brigade in charge of guarding the president.

Recently the government appealed to Jewish millionaire Leon Tamman, who lives in Switzerland, and asked him to help recruit investors. Tamman went to Zaire with several investors from the United States and Europe who examined possibilities of establishing industrial plants there. In the meantime, it is not clear whether Tamman himself will invest in Zaire or concentrate on attracting the investors. It has been learned that President Sese Seko Mobutu is looking for investors, primarily to expand the national airline, Air Zaire, and establish a chemical industry in his country.

Begin Considering Return to Political Life

TA220910 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Feb 85 pp 1, 11

[Report from London by the *MA'ARIV* correspondent]

[Text] Former Prime Minister Menahem Begin is "thinking seriously" about returning to political life. This emerges from remarks he made in an interview with Yosef Finkelston, the diplomatic editor of the London *JEWISH CHRONICLE* and the main *MA'ARIV* correspondent in London.

The words Mr Begin used left a clear impression that his leaning toward a return to political life is greater than his trend toward continuing to live in retirement from public life.

Mr Begin said: "I have not yet made a decision. I cannot talk of a precise date when I will do so. Please understand that there are many factors that must be taken into account. I simply cannot tell you now. However, when I do decide, you will be the first person to know. I will phone London specially to tell you."

Begin sounded healthy and in high spirits. This was the longest telephone interview he had given since retiring from political life.

From what Mr Begin had to say, the impression is that if he had been in the government, he would have voted in favor of a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon. Asked whether he is pleased that IDF soldiers are leaving southern Lebanon, the former prime minister answered: "How can anybody be happy? The Cabinet made a decision and there are three withdrawal phases. The IDF is doing its best. Let us hope that Galilee's peace will be guaranteed. I do not want to speak about fears, but of course there is a great deal of concern about safeguarding the Galilee."

The former prime minister dismissed the possibility of 'Arafat being a partner to talks with Israel. He reacted scornfully to reports that 'Arafat had softened his stance on Israel. What he said left the impression that he wants the government to invite Jordan to the discussion table, but only on the basis of the Camp David agreements. Mr Begin said: "We (Egypt and Israel) agreed that all the talks with Jordan would have to be held on the basis of the Camp David agreements. That is the only international agreement signed by Israel, Egypt, and the United States, and to which they are entirely committed. That agreement must be kept."

Nisim, Levi Draft Herut-Liberal Merger Pact

TA220716 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Feb 85 p 2

[Report by Sara Honig]

[Text] Deputy Premier David Levi and Justice Minister Moshe Nisim yesterday completed drafting the merger agreement between Herut and the Liberals. But it is still far from clear whether the agreement will be acceptable to the two parties.

The draft is the first practical step towards a merger, but is still subject to amendments and much political haggling when it comes before the two parties' central institutions.

According to the draft, the new party will be known as the Likud Movement, or the Likud National Liberal Movement.

Members of either party can automatically become members of the new party.

In the founding convention, Herut and La'am, which are merging now, will have 64 per cent of the delegates. The Liberals will have 36 per cent. Yesterday many Herut secretariat members, who heard about the draft from Levi, argued that the Liberals will thus be grossly over-represented, with well over a third of the share, because they do not have the corresponding vote-getting potential.

It was further agreed that for the next (12th) Knesset, seats will be divided according to a predetermined formula. But while

Nisim suggested that of the first 48 slots on the Likud list, 30 go to Herut, and 18 to the Liberals, Levi proposed freezing the status quo in which Herut has 32 seats and the Liberals 16. This, too, is criticized in Herut where it is considered that the Liberals are over-represented.

A parity committee is to decide between the two proposals.

Nisim estimated yesterday that the process will be completed in two months and that a unity announcement will be possible prior to the Histadrut elections.

But Nisim's optimism is not universally shared. Anti-merger Liberals plan a gathering at Kefar Hamaccabiah in Ramat Gan on Sunday to demand that no move be made before the Liberal convention is held. Among the participants will be Jewish Agency Chairman Arye Dulzin, Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, and Rehovot Mayor Yehezqel Harmelekh.

KUNA: Algiers, Rabat To Hold Joint Summit

LD212055 Kuwait KUNA in English 1848 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Paris, Feb 21 (KUNA) — Algiers and Rabat are reported to have finally decided to hold a two-country summit to solve the Western Sahara problem, according to diplomatic sources here.

After several visits to Algiers and Rabat by Moroccan and Algerian officials respectively, it appeared that it was impossible, for the time being, to hold a five-nation North African summit to discuss the various disputes between Rabat, Nouakchott, Algiers, Tripoli and Tunis.

France seems to agree, for the time being, with the idea of holding a stage by stage North African summit which would contribute, in the beginning, to lower tension between the two most important states in the reagan, Algeria and Morocco, with a compromise solution.

In spite of a formal denial in Paris, France has played a role between Algiers and Rabat to make it easier for both parties to hold that summit.

Tunisian Foreign Minister on Maghreb Summit Date

LD212125 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Madrid, Feb 21 (MAP) — It would be premature to fix a date for the coming Maghreb summit meeting, declared Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi.

In an interview with the Spanish daily *EL PAIS* published Wednesday, Mr Essebsi said his country was endeavoring for holding such a summit with the participation of the heads of state of the five countries of the region (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya and Mauritania). Such a summit, he added, will "symbolize the will to find a solution to problems through dialogue".

Mr Essebsi made this interview on the occasion of his coming visit (next Monday and Tuesday) to Spain.

Concerning relations between Spain and Tunisia, Mr Essebsi said they were excellent, in spite of desequilibrium in favor of Spain in exchanges between the two countries.

ALGERIA

Polish Foreign Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

LD211627 Algiers APS in English 1552 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Algiers 11/02/85 (APS) — Mr Stefan Olszowski, member of the Politburo of the Polish Unified Labor Party Central Committee, concluded a three-day visit to Algeria at the invitation of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Politburo member foreign minister.

Poland's foreign minister has been received by President Chadli and had talks with several Algerian top officials.

Press Statement Issued

LD212359 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] A press statement was released today at the conclusion of the Polish foreign minister's visit to Algeria, noting that the two ministers in the course of their talks studied bilateral relations in all fields and exchanged views on international issues of mutual interest. The two sides, after pointing out the great potential for developing cooperation between the two countries, noted that they have charged the joint committee for economic cooperation to establish the means necessary to exploit this potential on the basis of mutual balance.

Concerning the international situation, the two sides stressed the need to improve international relations, expressing, in this respect, their satisfaction over the resumption of dialogue between East and West and considering it a contribution toward reducing international tensions. The two sides also pointed out, after praising the role of the Nonaligned Movement in consolidating international peace and security, the seriousness of the international economic situation, expressing their conviction that the elimination of these negative factors and consequences, particularly those which effect the economies of the developing countries, lies in substantially changing the current system of economic international relations.

On studying the developments in the Middle East, the Arab Maghreb, southern Africa, and Central America, they stressed that the settlement of the problems facing these regions lies in respecting peoples' right to self-determination and the freedom of states to chose the political, economic, and social systems suitable for them.

The statement noted that the foreign minister of Poland has extended an invitation to his Algerian counterpart, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, to pay an official visit to Poland. This invitation was accepted with gratitude.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Contacts King Hassan by Telephone

LD211938 Tripoli JANA in English 1818 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 1, February 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — This evening a telephone contact was made between the leader of the revolution and King Hassan II of Morocco.

Jallud Receives Lebanon's Junblatt, Qulayat

LD222206 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Feb (JANA) — Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud this evening received Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party and head of the National Democratic Front in Lebanon, and Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the independent Nasirite movement al-Murabitun.

Statement Issued
LD212258 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] A statement was issued today in Tripoli at the conclusion of a meeting between Brothers Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, and Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Independent Nasirites Al-Murabitun movement. The statement says:

Within the framework of the pan-Arab work and in unification of the pan-Arabist forces' efforts, the following has been agreed:

To firmly adhere to the historical alliance between the Progressive Socialist Party and the Al-Murabitun Movement founded with the revolution of 1958, which was led by the great leader Kamal Junblatt.

To translate this historic alliance into tangible action through the unity of pan-Arab stances and in the form of joint struggle action to confront the imminent dangers in the Lebanese and Arab arenas, and in a manner that will serve the pan-Arab courses and stances.

They declare to their cadres, strugglers and their masses their firm commitment to (?improve) the materialization of the pan-Arab, national, and Islamic positions.

They have decided to work together with all conviction, seriousness and commitment to realize these objectives.

Signed: Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party;Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Al-Murabitun Movement.

Benin Foreign Minister Arrives in Tripoli
LD212314 Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 1, February 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Mr Frederic Affo, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation in the People's Republic of Benin, arrived in Tripoli today at noon on a several days visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

MAURITANIA

Acting OAU Secretary General Arrives in Nouakchott
AB210955 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Peter Onu, acting secretary general of the OAU, arrived in Nouakchott last night. He was met at the airport by Abd El Kader Ould Diddi, deputy minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and by (Bama Bouracine), ambassador and director of the African department of the same ministry.

Received by President
AB211936 Paris AFP in French 1822 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Nouakchott, 21 Feb (AFP) — Peter Onu, interim OAU secretary general was received on Thursday by the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouyia Sid Ahmed Ould Taya.

Peter Onu who has been on a visit to Nouakchott since Wednesday within the framework of a tour to drought-stricken African countries, also held talks with members of the Mauritanian commission for assistance to drought-affected people.

In a statement to newsmen, the OAU secretary general recalled that his visit is aimed at collecting information on the effects of drought, in view of the forthcoming economic summit of the pan-African organization.

SUDAN

President Receives Message From Egypt's Mubarak
NC211912 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Feb (MENA) — President Ja'far Numayri received a message from President Husni Mubarak today regarding developments in the Middle East. Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs and Foreign Ministry first under secretary, who arrived in Khartoum today on a several-hour visit, conveyed the message.

Before leaving Khartoum for Cairo, Al-Baz said that the message expresses solidarity between the people in the north and south of the Nile Valley. He said that the message is a link in the chain of constant consultations between Presidents Mubarak and Numayri.

He said that Egypt and Sudan are seeking to establish peace and stability in the region as well as good relations with the countries which want such relations. He added that both countries are eager to continue the political, economic, and social development along the Nile Valley.

Numayri Writes on Islamization, Libya
EA220100 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] A book, *The Islamic Course: How It is Prepared* [aaddahu],by the leader-president, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, on the role of geography in Sudan's foreign policy, was recently published.

President Numayri said in this respect that Sudan possessed all the necessary components for human and economic integration with neighboring states, adding in his new book: We always strive to consolidate and exploit our geographical position in the interests of Sudan and those of its neighbors. His excellency pointed out that the interministerial committees between Sudan and all the neighboring states constituted steps towards integration and the expansion of cross-border trade, as well as a step towards achieving regional integration.

Referring to conditions on the continent, President Numayri said: We in Sudan are striving in cooperation with the OAU to put an end to the dispute in Chad.

On conspiracies directed against Sudan, President Numayri said in his book that Sudan was not in confrontation with Al-Qadhdhafi but with the USSR which was inciting him; it could never forget Sudan and could never forgive Sudan for succeeding in exterminating the superstition of the biggest communist party in the Arab world and Africa, namely the Sudanese Communist Party.

He said: If we understand that Sudan's security is inseparable from the security and stability of neighboring states to the west and south, then we will also realize that our security is inseparable from that of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and understand the need to keep it free from international conflicts.

Defense Minister Confers With FRG Counterpart

JN221232 Khartoum SUNA in English 1009 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, Jumad Thani 2/Feb 22.(SUNA) — State Minister at the Ministry of Defense (retired) Yusuf Hasan al-Haj has received here yesterday the German state minister at the Ministry of Defense currently on a two-day visit to the country at the invitation of Defence Ministry.

During the meeting they discussed the German aid provided by the German Defense Ministry to the Sudanese Defense Ministry and the issues of promoting military relations between the two countries.

Radio Transmission Accord With Japan To Be Signed

JN220742 Khartoum SUNA in English 0926 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, Jumada Thani 2/Feb 22 (SUNA) — Culture and Information Minister 'Ali Shammu will leave for Japan today on a week-long visit during which he will sign the contract for the installation of five radio relay transmission stations.

Shammu will also discuss the possibility of a new deal that will finance the purchasing of equipment for the short wave and five other 10 kilowatt stations to be installed in some of the towns.

SPLA-SPLM Denies Exploiting Economic Problems

EA211648 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] A spokesman for Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLA-SPLM] has described as misleading and malicious the report by the Arabic service of Voice of America, which suggested last night that the Sudanese armed and political opposition against Numayri are exploiting the current economic difficulties for the May regime. The spokesman went on to say: As far as the SPLA-SPLM is concerned, the present economic crisis in the Sudan is a sad thing, because it is the people we are fighting for who are being hit hard by these difficulties, most of which are the responsibility of their system.

Those who are exploiting these problems of the Sudanese system for political reasons are not the SPLA-SPLM, but some members of the opposition based in Khartoum, who are now trying to compromise with Numayri under the pretext that the SPLA-SPLM is the danger to the state by which they mean themselves, he concluded.

SPLA Radio Comments on Numayri's 'Lies'

LD212329 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Commentary by Major (Detorias Macharteng): "General Panic Strikes Numayri's System"]

[Text] The reported suspension of economic aid to the regime of Numayri has shwon how dependent on foreign aid Sudan has become. Instead of admitting the bankrupcy of his oppressive system, Numayri has resorted to Islamic and Arabism sentiments in order to whip up support from Arabs and Islamic reactionaries. The collapse of the economy is the result of Numayri's unsound economic policies and rampant corruption.

It was a known fact that the Islamic laws and the Islamic taxing system are unworkable in this complex modern world. The fate of such systems was obvious to every Sudanese from the beginning, except Numayri and his henchmen.

Recently Numayri and his henchmen have been spreading malicious lies in the Arab reactionary countries that the SPLA-SPLM wants to establish a so-called petroleum African negroid state [as heard] in the Sudan. He is not ashamed to preach racism and religious bigotry.

The SPLA-SPLM has consistently stated the nature of the present conflict in the Sudan and the form of the state it wants to establish. We are neither racists like Numayri nor religious zealots. There is no room for racism and religious bigotry in this struggle. These are the very things we fight against. This struggle is against exploitation and oppression of the Sudanese masses by any system.

We are for democracy, equality, justice, and unity of the Sudanese masses. We will fight any system that divides the Sudanese people along racial and or religious lines. This is clearly stated in the SPLM manifesto. Our objectives and policies are clearly stated in the manifesto and over Radio SPLA. The Sudan is for all the Sudanese: Arab tribes, African tribes, anybody of any creed, Christians or Muslims without any discrimination. Race and religion are irrelevant in this struggle. The Sudanese people must fight against such divisions. Such divisions are meant to keep apart and weaken the struggle and solidarity of our masses against this exploitative and oppressive system.

Whatever sentiments or help Numayri appeals to or enlists, whether from Arab countries, the Western world, or Sudanese reactionaries, will neither salvage the situation nor destroy the resolve of our heroic masses to liberate themselves from exploi-

tation and oppression. The political, economic, social and the security situation has since been deteriorating despite the millions of pounds poured into the Sudan by the Western world and the Arab countries, and despite the political propping up by reactionary groups such as the Muslim Brothers. Additional millions of pounds or propping up by any other reactionaries, the grossly religious fundamentalist political parties, will not make any difference. The struggle continues and the Sudanese masses will win in the end.

Any political party that cooperates with Numayri is only committing suicide just like the Muslim Brothers did. Numayri has absolutely run out of cards to use in order to remain in power. As all the Sudanese people know, in 1969 Numayri used the communists to come to power and crushed them in 1971 after both had crushed the Ansar in 1970. After crushing the communists, Numayri sought alliance with the Anyanya separatist rebels who agreed with him in 1972 and used the agreement on the south to crush them by 'umar in 1975 and 1976. From 1980 to 1983, Numayri made alliance with the Muslim Brothers to help him in abrogating the Addis Ababa agreement and to silence political opposition in the north in the name of religion.

Now Numayri says he is the imam of Sudan and that disobedience to Numayri is disobedience to God. Now that Numayri has become synonymous with God, what other card can he play?

The economy continues to deteriorate etc, etc. Numayri now wants to call on racial and religious chauvinism and bigotry to plunge the country into chaos. He has leaked lies to the Arab world that the SPLA wants to establish a petroleum African Negroid state.

What is necessary at this stage is to unite the struggle of our broad masses in a broad-based national opposition front to wage the protracted revolutionary armed struggle to liberate the Sudanese masses from exploitation and oppression by the minority clique regime in Khartoum. We reiterate our irrevocable commitment to equality, justice, and national unity that would be realized in a united socialist Sudan.

ETHIOPIA

Eritrean Official on Battles, Media Coverage

GF211900 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 21 Feb (WAKH) — Osman Mohamed Omar, representative of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front in the Gulf countries, has said that the Eritrean revolution has achieved big military successes against the Ethiopian Army despite its circumstances and limited resources. He said that these successes have been achieved through the revolution's own capabilities and strategic battle plans.

In a statement published in today's issue of the Al-Shariqah based *AL-KHALIJ*, Mr Omar said that the Eritrean revolution used important military tactics when Ethiopia launched its major offensive last year. Our forces withdrew from some areas to contain the attack and to exhaust the Ethiopian Army. We fully succeeded in achieving our objectives and managed to regain positions occupied by the Army when we launched lighting attacks against them. We also managed to capture 8,000 Ethiopian soldiers.

Mr Omar made it clear that the Eritreans have been fighting the Ethiopians with arms captured during their battles. He added: The Eritrean revolution needs the support of brothers and friends, because the Eritreans are facing the difficult problems of drought and famine, which have affected large areas of Eritrea, as well as Ethiopia's prevention of aid from reaching the Eritrean people, with the aim of destroying the Eritrean revolution.

Mr Omar complained about the lack of Arab media coverage of the Eritrean issue. He said: While foreign media have made abundant requests for coverage, there is no confirmed presence of the Arab press or any information media. The security of any journalist is guaranteed 100 percent because the liberated regions are secure and are run by the Eritrean revolutionaries quietly and in an orderly manner.

KENYA

Moi Announces Parliament Session for 19 Mar

EA221202 Nairobi KNA in English 0745 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Nairobi, Feb 22, (KNA) — President Daniel Arap Moi has announced that the next parliament session will begin on March 19th, 1985 at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

The announcement is contained in the *KENYA GAZETTE* supplement dated February 22, 1985.

Parliament was adjourned indefinitely on December 7th, 1984 last year.

SOMALIA

SRSP Names New Council of Ministers

EA221057 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0430 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The secretary general of the SRSP and president of the Somali Democratic Republic, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, last night chaired a meeting of the Political Committee of the SRSP Central Committee which named the council of ministers of the new government, consisting of 23 [as heard] ministries. Members of the Council of Ministers of the new government are as follows:

Ministry of Defense:
- Challe Lieutenant General Mohamed Ali Samantar, minister
- Challe Brigadier General Ahmad Sahal Ali, deputy minister
- Challe Brigadier General Adan Abdullahi Nur, deputy minister

Ministry of National Planning:
- Challe Major General Hussein Kulmie Afrah, minister
- Challe Yusuf Ali Usman, deputy minister

Ministry of Interior:
- Challe Brigadier General Ahmed Suleiman Abdalla, minister
- Challe Mohamed Mahmud Warsame, minister of state

Ministry of Minerals and Water Resources:
- Challe Colonel Ahmed Mohamed Farrah, minister
- Challe Mahmud Mursal, deputy minister

Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
- Challe Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre, minister
- Challe Mohamed Ali Hamid, minister of state

Ministry of Justice and Religious Affairs:
- Challe Sheikh Hassan Abdullahi Farrah, minister
- Challe Dr Khalif Musa (Samatur), deputy minister

Ministry of Finance:
- Challe Brigadier General Mohamed Sheikh Usman, minister
- Challe Abdullahi Warsame Nur, deputy minister
- Challe Mohamed Hashi Egal, deputy minister

Ministry of Commerce and Industry:
- Challe Major General Abdalla Mohamed Fadil, minister
- Challe Mohamed Nur (Aliyow), deputy minister
- Challe Mahad Dirir Guled, deputy minister

Ministry of Information and National Guidance:
- Challe Colonel Mohamed Omar Jess, minister
- Challe Dr Abdi Rashid Sheikh Ahmed, deputy minister

Ministry of Culture and Higher Education:
- Challe Abdi Salam Sheikh Hussein, minister
- Challe Yusuf Abdi "Colombus," deputy minister

Ministry of Education:
- Challe Abdurahman Abdulle Shuke, minister
- Challe Fadumo Ahmed Alim, deputy minister
- Challe Hussein Mohamed Jumbur, deputy minister

Ministry of Public Works:
- Challe Abd al-Qasim Salad Hassan, minister
- Challe Abdurahman Jama Mohamed, deputy minister

Ministry of Agriculture:
Challe Brigadier General Bile Rafle Gulaid, minister
Challe Dr Mahmud Abdi Nur, deputy minister
Challe Mohamed Hassan Barre, deputy minister
Ministry of Livestock Development:
Challe Musa Rabile Ghod, minister
Challe Ali Salah Abdulkarim, deputy minister
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources:
Challe Adan Mohamed Ali, minister
Challe Shire Sudi Mahmud, deputy minister
Ministry of Health:
Challe Yusuf Hassan Elmi, minister
Challe Mohamed Sheikh Ali (Munasar), deputy minister
Challe (Fadia) Haji Duale, deputy minister
Ministry of Labor and Sports:
Challe Mire Aware Jama, minister
Challe Mohamed Yusuf Ahmed, deputy minister
Challe Adan Hussein Haile, deputy minister
Ministry of Tourism:
Challe Mahmud Siad Mohamed, minister
Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport:
Challe Brigadier General Mahmud Gelle Yusuf, minister
Challe Abdullahi Mohamed Mire, deputy minister
Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications:
Challe Abdullahi Ossoble Siad, minister
Challe Mohamed Abdi Yusuf, deputy minister
Ministry of Juba Valley Development:
Challe Dr Ahmed Habib Ahmed, minister
Ministry of Air and Land Transport:
Challe Jama Gas Ma-awiye, minister
The President's Office:
Challe Dr Abdullahi Ahmed Addou, minister of state for economic and political affairs
Challe Ahmed Jama Abdulle "Jingeli," minister of state for labor and social affairs

Opposition Spokesman on Anti-DFSS Propaganda

EA211153 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Text] Dr Mohamed Farah Jumaleh, the DFSS [Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia] organizing secretary, bitterly lashed out at the cheap propaganda being spread by Radio Mogadishu and other foreign stations against the advanced struggle that the Somali people are waging to preserve their national identity. The organizing secretary of the DFSS, Dr Mohamed Farah Jumaleh, spoke firmly about the armed struggle the Somali people are waging to preserve their unity and dignity.

He said the struggle is a result of the Somali people's rebellion against the oppression they have been subjected to by the savage and inhuman regime of Siad Barre. It is a struggle in which they have vowed to overthrow the Mogadishu terrorist regime. The struggle has been going on for 6 years and more.

Speaking on the Galdogob and Balamballe Districts, Dr Mohamed made it clear that they are part of Somalia and that in July 1982 combatants of DFSS captured them from the dictatorial regime of Siad Barre and that they were administering them now. He added that this fact cannot be disputed.

On the cheap propaganda waged by the Western radio stations against the Somali people's armed struggle confronting the oppressive regime of Xamar [Mogadishu], he said the propaganda is directed against the struggle of the Somali people and that it is aimed at reviving the Mogadishu regime, whose end is near. He called on the Somali people to unite and urged the opposition groups, particularly those administering Galdogob and Balamballe, to continue with the struggle.

CHAD

Radio Bardai Surprised at OAU Visit to Ndjamena

AB211105 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Summary] The recent visit of an OAU delegation to Ndjamena seems (?untimely). As a matter of fact, though we must express gratitude to the pan-African organization for being concerned over the fate of the Chadian people, it is worth pointing out that "Chadians living in the other part of the country [under Habre's control] are suffering from political and natural calamities. Considering the drought as the only cause of famine is a misrepresentation of Chadian reality. As a matter of fact, the phenomenon of desert encroachment began in 1973 and if hundreds of people have died and hundreds of thousands of others have been displaced in the east, in the center, in the west, and in the south," this is because of the war situation.

"It is surprising to see an OAU delegation visit Ndjamena while the puppet group deliberately blocks the efforts of the pan-African organization to find a peaceful solution."

Meanwhile, in the face of the policy of "man's exploitation by man pursued systematically by the Ndjamena people, 10,000 inhabitants of North Kanem have sought refuge in Niger. In addition, the Chadian refugees and exiles in Nigeria are reportedly facing a deplorable situation at the hand of members of the FAN terrorist network," who are keeping watch over the Chadians on Nigerian territory.

CONGO

Zaire's Mokolo Delivers Mobutu Message to President

AB211638 Paris AFP in French 1542 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Brazzaville, 21 Feb (AFP) — Zairian Foreign Minister Mokolo wa Mpombo, who has been visiting Brazzaville since Wednesday on his first foreign visit since he was appointed foreign minister, is discussing transportation issues between Kinshasa and Brazzaville with Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

According to the CONGOLESE NEWS AGENCY, the creation of a joint river transportation company linking the two banks of the Congo River (Brazzaville-Kinshasa) will be preceeded by a series of measures likely to satisfy the inhabitants of the two capitals.

Meanwhile, the head of the Zairian diplomatic service, accompanied by his compatriot Lunda Bulula, secretary general of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC), delivered a message from President Mobutu Sese Seko to President Sassou-Nguesso. The message concerns the operation of the CEEAC, whose headquarters are in Libreville.

GABON

Vieira Met by Bongo on Arrival for Talks

AB211557 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1230 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Guinea-Bissau President Joao Bernardo Vieira has just begun an official visit to Gabon. The Guinea-Bissau head of state, who arrived in the capital city of Libreville less than an hour ago, was received on arrival by President Omar Bongo, who was accompanied by his ministers of foreign affairs and natural resources.

During his stay in Gabon, he will hold talks with President Bongo on ways and means to promote bilateral cooperation and also on major African issues, including Chad, Western Sahara, southern Africa, and in particular economic matters. Interviewed on his arrival, Bernardo Vieira underlined the importance that his country attaches to solving the economic problems of the continent:

[Begin recording] [Vieira] It is an important problem because it (?concerns the whole of) Africa and we [words indistinct] the upcoming Addis Ababa meeting on economic problems facing Africa. We believe that this is one of the problems African heads of state must look into closely at the OAU summit. We also believe that it is important to exchange views on economic problems. As you know, there are [words indistinct] in Africa on the economic problems facing our continent.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr President, the situation [words indistinct] from South Africa. This means that Mozambique and Angola denounce the role played by South Africa in the various bilateral agreements. What do you think about this?

[Vieira] We think the agreement, which was signed between Mozambique and South Africa, from what we have heard, was not respected by South Africa, and there are also some powers that give material support to resistance movements against the legal government. We believe that it is only with this Nkomati agreement, especially if the parties involved in this agreement come to respect this accord, that peace can prevail in Mozambique, and the same is true for Angola. [end recording]

BURKINA

Sankara Receives Credentials of New Envoys

AB181801 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Comrade Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and of the Faso, yesterday received the credentials of two new ambassadors. They are His Excellency Kostadin Georgiev Gyaurov and Mohammad (Hawal Berhamani), ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and of Pakistan respectively, to our country. The ceremony took place in the Kou Valley in We Province.

CAPE VERDE

Prime Minister Makes Offical Visit to Spain

For Madrid reportage on the visit to Spain by Prime Minister Pedro Pires, including his meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, see the Spain section of the 22 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

GAMBIA

President Receives New Guinea-Bissau Envoy

AB182138 Dakar PANA in English 1149 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Banjul 17 Feb (GINS/PANA) — The Gambian president, Sir Dawda Jawara, has received the letters of credence of the new Guinea-Bissau ambassador to the Gambia, Mr Jose Pereira Batista, at State House in Banjul. Sir Dawda noted that the two countries have strong historical and cultural ties dating back to the Kabu Empire. He recalled that the Gambia supported Guinea-Bissau during its liberation struggle, and was among the first African countries to accredit an ambassador to Guinea-Bissau.

Ambassador Batista noted that relations between the two countries are good. He [words indistinct] planned signing of a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, and the setting up of a joint commission for cooperation will mark significant steps in their relations.

GHANA

Rawlings Receieves Libyan Medical Team

AB211042 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The 9-member Libyan medical team which was in the country to give free treatment and drugs to Ghanaians was also at the Castle to say farewell to Chairman Rawlings. The team, led by Mr (Mohammed Shawish), returns home today.

Mr (Shawish) spoke of the good relations between Ghana and Libya and hoped they would be maintained.

Chairman Rawlings expressed Ghana's gratitude to the team and hoped the Libyans will always extend such solidarity to Ghana and other African countries when the need arises.

The team later presented a decorated tray to Flight Lieutenant Rawlings.

IVORY COAST

Foreign Minister Meets Outgoing Netherlands Envoy

AB181812 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 18 Feb 85 p 8

[Excerpt] The minister of foreign affairs, Simeon Ake, on behalf of the head of state, elevated to the rank of Grand Officer of the Ivorian National Order the Netherlands ambassador to Abidjan, His Excellency Jan Horak, who leaves our country at the end of a 2-year mission.

LIBERIA

UPP Complains About Registration Difficulties

AB211930 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1710 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The committee to organize and register the United People's Party, UPP, has publicly affirmed that it has become virtually impossible to organize and register a political party since NDPL [National Democratic Party of Liberia] completed its registration. This situation, the committee says, is seriously eroding public confidence in the Specal Elections Commission [Secom] and reducing the entire electoral process to mockery and laughter.

In its release, the committee further noted that there was growing suspicion among some citizens of the country that Liberia could again become a de facto one-party state. The committee is therefore asking the Special Elections Commission to avoid acting in a manner that would give credence to those suspicions or transform it into reality. The committee also said that as Secom is the monitoring agency for this electoral process, it must ensure compliance with the elections law which prohibits the involvement of foreigners, labor unions, and business establishments in the party politics of the country. The committee said that Secom must also ensure that membership in any political party must not be a precondition for job security in either the public or the private sector.

Israeli Businessmen Arrive for Week-Long Visit

AB211050 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] A 6-man Israeli business delegation led by the president of the Mortgage Bank in Tel Aviv, Israel, Mr Moses Man, arrived in Monrovia this week for a 1-week working visit. While

in the country, Mr Man and the members of his delegation will meet with Liberian Government officials to discuss investment possibilities in the country. The delegation is also expected to participate next Tuesday in the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of a new defense ministry. Other members of the delegation include five senior officials of the (Yona) International [words indistinct] and Construction Company in Israel. (Yona) Company is to construct the new defense ministry.

Speaking at a brief ceremony at the Roberts International Airport in Marshall Territory, Mr Man said the purpose of his visit is intended to explore possibilities for the construction of several low-cost housing estates in Liberia.

Earlier, Liberia's ambassador to the State of Israel, Major Samuel D. Pearson, welcomed Mr Man to Liberia and said his visit in Liberia is a manifestation of the people of Israel's desire to assist Liberia in its development efforts.

MALI

Sankara Pays Brief Visit, Meets With Traore

AB211624 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Within the framework of pursuing the fraternal relations between Mali and Burkina Faso, President Thomas Sankara paid a brief visit to Mali yesterday. The discussions that General Moussa Traore, the secretary general of the Malian People's Democratic Union and president of the Malian Republic, held with President Thomas Sankara centered on holding fraternal consultations established between the two heads of state on bilateral cooperation and the consolidation of the bonds of friendship and fraternity existing, as you know, between the Malian and Burkinabe peoples.

We would also like to inform you that tomorrow the Malian and Burkinabe foreign ministers will go to the Hague within the framework of the proceedings of the settlement of the border problem.

NIGER

Kountche Receives SDAR Foreign Minister

AB211944 Paris AFP in French 1826 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Niamey, 21 Feb (AFP) — SDAR Foreign Minister Ibrahim Hakim was received in audience this morning by Niger's head of state, General Seyni Kountche, diplomatic sources in Niamey disclosed.

Mr Hakim, who arrived in Niamey yesterday, delivered a message to President Kountche from SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz, the same sources stated. The contents of the message were not disclosed. Several SDAR envoys had already been received by the authorities in Niger, but observers note that this is the first time the head of state of Niger — a country which has not recognized the SDAR — has received a SDAR minister.

Mr Hakim met with Niger's foreign minister, Ide Oumarou, yesterday and discussed with him the evolution in the situation in the SDAR as well as the recent political developments in the Magrheb, the same sources disclosed.

Mr Hakim leaves Niamey tomorrow for Addis Ababa, where he will participate, beginning 25 February, in the OAU ministerial council meeting on the continent's economic problems.

Border Meeting With Benin Discusses Security

AB211722 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Within the framework of periodic meetings between Benin and Niger administrative authorities — meetings instituted in 1975 — a Beninese delegation led by Robert Shabi, head of Karimama District, and a Niger delegation led by Dosso Subprefect Briji Rafini met at Ouna, Dosso District. Hassan Yacouba has the details:

[Begin recording] This meeting, which was aimed at establishing contacts between the two sides, enabled the two delegations to examine two main issues, that is movement of persons and security.

Concerning movement of persons, the two sides agreed to do everything possible to facilitate the free movement of persons and goods in accordance with the regulations in force.

As for security, the two delegations stressed the need to join their efforts in order to ensure peace for the inhabitants living in this border area.

Earlier, Dosso Subprefect Briji Rafini welcomed the Beninese delegation on behalf of his district's inhabitants and in his own name. [end recording]

Briefs

New Envoys Present Credentials — Three new ambassadors this afternoon presented copies of their letters of credence, accrediting them to our country as ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary, to Ide Oumarou, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. They are their Excellencies Mamadou Diallo of Guinea, Ghassan Sa'id Sadiq al-Rashshash of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Hatungimana Callixte of the Rwandan Republic. Tomorrow the three diplomats will present their credentials to the head of state. [Text] [*Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 14 Feb 85 AB*]

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Speech Closes People's Assembly Session

MB220843 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the People's Assembly, yesterday closed the ninth session of the People's Assembly in Luanda, which began last Wednesday. During the meeting, projects related to Angola's membership in several international organizations were approved, as well as the state general budget and the activities plan for 1985. The law on telecommunications required more in-depth discussion, and was handed to the standing commission of the People's Assembly for review. The ratification of legislature on diamond smuggling was postponed until the next session of the People's Assembly.

Here is President Jose Eduard dos Santos' closing speech:

[Begin Dos Santos recording]. Comrade deputies: We have concluded the proceedings on the ninth ordinary session of the People's Assembly, during which we analyzed, discussed, and approved the national plan, the state genral budget, and resolutions marking Angola's membership in several international African institutions. Without wishing to diminish the importance of the other documents, the national plan and the state general budget proved to be the most relevant, due to their nature and objectives. For that reason, they received special attention from the participants and the competent working commission of the People's Assembly. We expect to achieve a number of improvements for the people in those crucial areas of food and medicinal supplies and industrial production. We now expect the responsible people to work scrupulously to achieve these goals.

Once again we appeal for the necessary militant and patriotic involvement of all to execute our decisions in the economic, social, and material production fields, so that we may consolidate the material foundations of socialism. Despite the difficult internal political and military situation, we must carry out all economic actions possible. We must spread the results of projects and dispel the image of disorganization characterizing some of our services and enterprises. If political work is needed to arouse enthusiasm among those who give up in the face of hardship, then that work must be carried out. Should it become necessary to lay off negligent and unproductive workers who jeopardize the execution of our plans, we must not hesitate. To progress we must demand work and discipline. We must improve the standard of living of the masses and strengthen the confidence of the people in their state and party.

The deputies paid special attention to the analysis of the political and military situation. I expect the commission for defense, security, and order to pursue the discussion of this important issue and present its recommendations to the standing commission of the People's Assembly as soon as possible to permit adoption and execution of measures to strengthen the country's defense.

From the up-to-date report made by our comrade, chief of the general staff, on the prevailing political and military situation in our country, we have verified that despite the enemy's spectacular propagandistic and terrorist actions, our forces have taken decisive steps to hold the initiative in military actions.

In order to stop the advance of our forces, the enemy has tried — although it does not have the necessary logistical support — to infiltrate small groups near the main urban centers, thus avoiding direct confrontation with our military units. The terrorist actions that the puppets have carried out lately in various localities against unprotected civilians fit these tactics. Barbarities of this nature do not have a great military value, but have a great pyschological impact on our people. I am talking about barbarities carried out by the puppets. The puppets currently rely on banditry and sabotage to spread fear and disrupt people's lives. There is no doubt that these crimes increase the hatred of our people for the puppets and those who support them from outside, and they also increase our people's determination to defend their gains.

However, in order to efficiently combat this criminal activity by the armed bandits, we must strengthen cohesion and cooperation among the organized and trained people and the Armed Forces. We must complete the reorganization of the People's Defense Organization, continue to recruit the masses into the people's vigilance brigades, and strengthen or form territorial forces wherever they may be needed to improve self-defense in hamlets and villages, thus complementing the constant efforts by our defense and security forces to annihilate the enemy.

We must be aware that the situation in southern Africa is complex, and that there is enormous involvement and interference by South Africa and the reactionary forces of various Western countries in the war being waged against our country to overthrow our revolutionary state. This situation may last for a few more years, until the imperialist forces realize that our people cannot be defeated. We must therefore be ready to continue the struggle on all fronts: political, military, economic, and also diplomatic fronts.

Between the last two session of the People's Assembly, our government continued its efforts to secure peace in the subregion of our continent. Toward this end, we sent a letter to the UN secretary general outlining our principal positions on the Namibian problem and on the withdrawal of the South African troops from the Angolan territory, and reiterating that the UN Security Council Resolution No 435/78 is the only valid instrument for attaining Namibia's independence. Other initatives and steps were also taken.

Thus the world can verify our desire for the peaceful resolution of southern Africa's obvious problems, and our government's sincere attempts to remove obstacles to that peace, which is an indispensable prerequisite to realizing the deepest aspirations of the people of our region. However, the coveted objectives have not yet been attained. Thus, perseverance, determination, and firmness are necessary so that we may continue the struggle to realize the objectives devised by our party and the constitutional law, which we must respect and enforce.

To conclude, comrade deputies, I express once again the desire that you continue to participate actively in the debates of future sessions and to conform to the pertinent resolutions and regulations of the People's Assembly and its working commissions. I wish you all good work and good return to your respective areas of activity. I thus declare the ninth session of the People's Assembly concluded.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain. [applause][end recording]

KUP: UNITA Shoots Down Antonov Plane 15 Feb

MB221218 (Clandestine) KUP in English to Southern and Central Africa 1200 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Free land of Angola, 22 Feb (KUP) — An Antonov aeroplane was shot down by UNITA anti-aircraft artillery, on its flight to Luau, far east of Angola, at the border with Zaire, on 15 February 1985. According to the communique issued by the general chief of staff on 17 February 1985, the aeroplane was carbonized with all its occupants.

MADAGASCAR

Government Announces Replacement of Four Ministers

AB220920 Paris AFP in English 0853 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Antananarivo, Feb 22 (AFP) — President of Madagascar Didier Ratsiraka has reshuffled the cabinet after consultations with Prime Minister Desire Rakotoarijaona, the government said here Thursday. The reshuffle, which was expected for several weeks, is intended to boost the economic sectors of the country and gain tighter control of the ideological and "social" departments.

The four new ministers are Jose Rakotomavo (industry), Jose Michel Andrianoelison (agriculture), Jean Andre Ndremanjary (youth and sports), and Simon Pierre, a former agriculture minister (information and ideological guidance).

Of their respective predecessors, Andrianarivo Tantely and Yves Ramelison have been made presidential advisers, while Remi Tiandraza and Bruno Rakotomavo have been appointed to the Supreme Revolutionary Council, the country's executive body.

Culture Minister Receives New DPRK Envoy

MB211313 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1030 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] His Excellency Mr (Gok Sae-wa), the new ambassador of the DPRK, has paid a courtesy visit to Mrs Gisele Rabesahala, the minister of revolutionary art and culture. The two officials hailed the excellent relations between the two countries, particularly in the cultural and artistic fields. As a matter of fact, for a number of years, the Ministry of Revolutionary Art and Culture, jointly with the DPRK Embassy, in various parts of the country, has been holding a number of activities to celebrate different anniversaries and historic dates of the DPRK. In turn, the minister of revolutionary art and culture reiterated the readiness of her ministry to cooperate with the DPRK in its struggle for the peaceful reunification of Korea, the strenthening of unity between two countries, as well as for the development of cultural cooperation between the Democratic Republic of Madagascar and DPRK.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel on Peace, Need for RSA Policy Changes

MB211158 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] President Samora Machel has indicated that the establishment of peace in southern Africa is directly linked with ending South Africa's policy of destabilization, terrorism, and violence against the neighboring countries and observing compromises with Angola and Mozambique.

In order to bring about peace, it is also necessary to eliminate apartheid in South Africa, to end Namibia's colonization, and to withdraw South Africa's occupationist forces from Angola, the Mozambican president added.

Samora Machel was speaking during a ceremony held in Maputo yesterday, where he received the credentials of Italian Ambassador Giorgio Testori. On cooperation between the two countries, Samora Machel said that in the last 10 years, Italy has moved from nothing to being Mozambique's main western trade partner. This is an example of success in North-South relations without neocolonialist ambitions or intentions, the supreme leader of Mozambique said.

President Samora Machel received in another audience the credentials of DPRK Ambassador (Cha Neon Glup) and said that the new type of cooperation being established between the two countries is typical of the correct formula for implementing South-South cooperation principles.

Still yesterday, President Samora Machel received the credentials of Indian Ambassador Alfred Vaz. On the occasion, President Samora Machel stressed the importance of preserving unity and solidarity and strengthening cocoperation between the two countries.

RAPPORT: Government, ANC Differ on RSA Strategy

MB220940 Johannesburg RAPPORT in Afrikaans 17 Feb 85 p 2

[Article by Hennie Serfontein: "Machel and ANC at Odds," following "recent visit" to Mozambique]

[Text] The Mozambican Government is seriously at odds with the banned ANC over the latter's strategy and analysis of the political situation in South Africa. This difference of opinion was conveyed in no uncertain terms to Joe Slovo by senior officials of the Frelimo government. Slovo is a senior member of the ANC and leader of the banned South African Communist Party.

Slovo was told bluntly that Mozambique differs with the ANC over its strategy as well as its general commitment to the so-called "armed struggle."

"For years we automatically accepted the ANC's advice, as well as their draft resolutions at international meetings. We are no longer prepared to be led by the nose," a senior government spokesman told me.

"During the past 25 years, there have been fundamental changes in South Africa, both good and bad. Although the apartheid structure is unchanged, the South African community is changing. There are also new realities which did not exist in 1960.

"The propaganda of the liberation movement has to take such realities into account. Yet, even today the ANC is still using outdated cliches and phrases from the Sharpeville era. This is ineffective and counterproductive. One cannot ignore some of the policy shifts and changes of the South African Government over the past year. Even if you realize that they have no intention of breaking down the structures of apartheid."

The spokesman referred specifically to President Botha's recent statements in parliament and the developments concerning the Immorality Act and the Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act. He said this new political fluidity presented new opportunities which should be exploited. Effective political action inside South Africa could make use of the contradictions now appearing in the apartheid structure.

A senior minister told me that Frelimo's own liberation was total and, eventually, effective. But the ANC, with its sporadic attacks, has achieved relatively little in the past 24 years. He said the urban terror attacks have managed to keep the ANC concept alive, but it is no closer to the take-over of power. With the new political awakening of black political organizations in South Africa, the armed struggle should be seen as a means, and not as an end in itself.

The minister warned that in the final analysis, strategy should not be elevated to an unyielding ideology.

Sources in Mozambique and the other Frontline States have in recent weeks made it clear that they believe blacks should begin a new internal political struggle — even if it means sometimes using "apartheid platforms," in order to oppose the government.

In an unprecedented diplomatic and political scramble in southern Africa in the past 14 days, several related delicate and controversial issues have come under the magnifying glass. One of these issues was the outdated strategy of the ANC. Another was the possible release of Mandela and future talks between the ANC and the South African Government, which have been intensively debated.

On 3 February, President Kaunda unexpectedly barred ANC President Oliver Tambo and two of his colleagues from Harare from meeting him in Lusaka. According to reports, the position of the ANC was discussed at their meeting the following day. A day later President Kaunda flew to Mozambique to meet President Machel at his holiday residence at Beline. Their sole topic of discussion was the ANC and the question of Mandela's release. It is known that the Zambian Government has the same criticism of the ANC as has Frelimo.

On the following day, an ANC delegation left Lusaka for Gaborone to discuss with the Botswana Government problems being experienced with certain ANC members by that country's government.

Apparently, during the meeting between the South African and Mozambican Governments in Pretoria over the implementation of the Nkomati Accord, the question of the offer to Mandela was also touched on informally.

In Mozambique and, from what I have been told, also in Zambia, the wording of Mandela's rejection of the offer for his release has received favorable reaction. It is felt he left the door open for further negotiations. One senior Mozambican minister told me that Mandela could be released within weeks, months, or a year.

SOUTH AFRICA

R.F. Botha Says RSA Will Not Insist on Botswana Pact

MB221410 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1406 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 22, SAPA — The Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha today concluded talks with Botswana Government officials by saying South Africa would not insist on a formal security agreement with Botswana.

Mr Botha said the meeting with the Botswana delegation, led by the minister of external affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe, was "fruitful and open, and I think we have made progress."

The talks focused on "common problems" said Mr Botha, who was accompanied at the meeting by the chief of the South Africa Defence Force, General Constand Viljoen.

Although Mr Botha admitted one of the issues discussed was security on the common border of the countries, he said: "I do not think it is in the interest of anyone to make this (security matter) a public debate."

However, Mr Botha added, "The South African Government has not insisted on a formal security agreement."

The governments of Botswana and Lesotho have stated repeatedly in the past that South Africa wanted them to enter peace accords similar to those signed with Mozambique last year and with Swaziland in 1982. Both countries have refused.

Mr Botha said: "The Botswana Government has assured us that it will not allow subversive elements to operate from Botswana into South Africa, or any of its neighbouring states."

He said his meeting with Dr Chiepe, who was recently appointed to her post, was a continuation of previous talks with her predecessor, Mr Archie Mogwe.

Dr Chiepe was accompanied by the Botswana minister of presidential affairs, Mr Ponatshengo Kedikilwe, the Botswana Defence Force commander, Major-General M.S. Merafe, and the deputy commissioner of police, Mr N.S. Moleboge.

Botswana Assurances Accepted

MB221535 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says South Africa accepts the assurance from Botswana that it will not allow its territory to be used as a base for subversive activities against South Africa.

Addressing newsmen in Pretoria after meeting a high-level Botswana delegation, Mr Botha said it was therefore not necessary for South Africa and Botswana to sign a security agreement. Mr Botha said topics in the talks with the Botswana delegation, which was led by the minister of external affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe, included security matters, transport affairs, and drought relief.

The talks followed complaints by South Africa and the southern African state of Bophuthatswana that ANC terrorists were involved in several incidents across the border of Botswana (?from) September last year.

The president of Botswana, Dr Quett Masire, and the ANC leader, Mr Oliver Tambo, have held talks in Gaborone.

Viljoen Announces Leases For Cape Town Blacks

MB220836 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 22 Feb 85 pp 1,2

[Text] Cape Town — The Government yesterday officially backed down from a decision to move all blacks in Cape Town to Kayelitsha, the bleak new township near Mitchell's Plan.

The Minister of Cooperation and Development, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, announced in a statement that "qualifying" blacks would in future be able to obtain 99-year leases in Nyanga, Guguletu and Langa.

"I anticipate that these decisions will contribute to a sense of purpose and security among the residents of Langa, Nyanga and Gguletu," Dr Viljoen said.

Dr Viljoen stressed that the new deal would apply to "qualifying black persons" and did not cover "illegal" blacks in Cape Town, many of whom are resident at Crossraods squatter camps.

Yesterday's statement does not, therefore, constitute a reprieve for the thousands of people in the squatter camps and the Government still hopes these people will eventually move to Kayelitsha, where 5,000 core houses are being constructued and between 2,400 and 8,000 site and services sites are being prepared.

Dr Viljoen's statement that no more core houses would be built at Kayelitsha this year after the first 5,000 were completed, indicates that the original plan to consolidate the housing of all blacks at Kayelitsha has been abandoned.

The first hint of the Government rethink on the issue came in September last year at the Cape National Party Congress when President P.W. Botha did not rule out 99-year leases for Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga, when he announced the extension of the 99-year scheme to Kayelitsha and other Western Cape townships.

In his statement, Dr Viljoen said that after considering strong appeals from the Cape Town Community Council and other interested bodies, "the Government has not approved the introduction of 99-year leasehold rights in respect of qualifying black persons in Langa, Nyanga and Gguletu. Further development and upgrading of facilities and infrastructure will be undertaken in these townships.

"This decision, together with the earlier announcement introducing a 99-year leasehold for Kayelitsha, should supply a sound basis for developing a strategy for orderly urbanisation of black people in the Cape Town area."

Dr Viljoen also said he had arranged to meet "within the next days representatives of the squatter groups in the Crossroads area in order to seek their co-operation for a programme of urban renewal and improvement of their quality of life."

Crossroads Leaders Ask for More Time To 'Consult'

MB220705 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Leaders of the Crossroads squatter community on the Cape flats have again asked for time to consult with their people before holding talks with the chief commissioner of the Department of Cooperation and Development in the Western Cape, Mr Timo Bezuidenhout. The community's chief spokesman, Mr Samuel Langa, told Mr Bezuidenhout over the telephone that discussions could be held as soon as he had wound up negotiations with residents of Crossroads.

The situation at Crossroads yesterday remained relatively calm. In Inyanga, a group of children marched to Gugulethu, bearing placards. They dispersed peacefully, after being asked to do so by the police.

Tutu Alleges 'Scandalous' Campaign by SABC

AB211155 Paris AFP in English 1131 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 21 (AFP) — Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu has withdraw from a South African television programme that was to be screened tonight, following a scathing attack on him by the state owned radio on Tuesday. The attack, which suggested Bishop Tutu, an outspoken critic of the country's apartheid system of racial discrimination, supported a campaign in the United States for disinvestment from South Africa, was made in the daily commentary on the radio.

Bishop Tutu said today he refused to have any dealings with the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) until the corporation apologised to him for the commentary. Bishop Tutu has denied he supports disinvestment. At his enthronement as Bishop of Johannesburg last month he said he would advocate economic sanctions against South Africa if apartheid was not scrapped or in the process of being abolished in 18 to 24 months.

On tonight's programme Bishop Tutu was to have appeared with Johnny Johnson, editor of the *CITIZEN* newspaper which supports the government, and Raymond Parsons, chief executive of the Associated Chambers of Commerce.

Bishop Tutu said the editorial attack on the radio on Tuesday had been the culmination of a campaign against him by the SABC.

He told AFP: "I am opposed to the stance of the SABC which behaves as a proganda tool of the government. I was prepared to appear to see if they were redeemable. But this attack was the culmination of a scandalous campaign against me." Not only had the SABC attacked him when he won the Nobel Peace Prize, but he said it had been guilty of consistently slanted reporting on his statements.

The radio comment said Bishop Tutu had now pledged to support the "radical American movement Transafrica" and yet he still denied he supported disinvestment in South Africa. Transafrica supports economic sanctions against South Africa for its racial policies, and SABC (?alleged) that Bishop Tutu had "written a public letter soliciting funds for the organisation. "But the bishop's antics raise more important considerations than the fate of one ambitious clergyman," the radio said. "It is the growing public exposure by such people themselves, through the very extravagance of their statements and actions, of the fraudulence of their concern for human rights as the mainspring of their political activities," it charged.

Johannesburg on Consequences of Disinvestment
MB211558 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Station Commentary: "Disinvestment"]

[Text] A feature of the tour of the United States by the Zulu leader Chief Gatsha Buthelezi is that he is taking a strong stand against disinvestment, which is in opposition to the view taken by Nobel Peace Prize Winner Bishop Desmond Tutu during his visit to the Unived States.

In an article which has just been published in the *WALL STREET JOURNAL*, Chief Buthelezi has made a strong appeal for the maintenance of investment in South Africa. He says that for the United States to withdraw diplomatically and economically from South Africa was a luxury which the United States could afford. However, it would emphasize the moral foolishness of that great country.

Pointing out that more than 50 percent of all black South Africans were under the age of 15, Chief Buthelezi said that under these circumstances, it would be unforgivable for the United States to increase unemployment through disinvestment. Chief Buthelezi thereby dramatically describes the internal situation that would develop in South Africa in the event of a successful disinvestment campaign against this country. There would be widespread suffering among the black people, the very ones whom the disinvestment campaigners claim they are assisting.

Interviews conducted among southern African states in the past few weeks have shown conclusively that the effects of disinvestment would be felt even more severely in neighboring states, countries against whom the disinvestment campaigners bear no grudge whatsoever.

Prominent government spokesmen from Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Mozambique have referred to the essential interdependence between South Africa and those countries.

Should the South Africa economy be hit hard by disinvestment, the consequences for its neighboring states would be near disastrous. Thousands of migrant workers from neighboring states work in South Africa. It is estimated that about a quarter of a million from Mozambique work in this country, and about half of Lesotho's labor force is employed in South Africa.

Should disinvestment campaigns put large numbers of South Africa's black people out of work, local blacks would be highly dissatisfied if this country continued to provide employment to migrant workers while those living in this country had no jobs.

These are issues which the disinvestment campaigners abroad and particularly in the United States should take into consideration.

U.S. Ambassador's Comments on Sanctions Cited
MB211922 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The U.S. ambassador to South Africa, Mr Herman Nickel, says the Reagan administration will do all it can to defeat punitive sanctions against South Africa which would probably accelerate a vicious cycle of rebellion and repression.

Addressing the Afrikaanse Sakekamer [Afrikaans Chamber of Commerce] in Johannesburg, Mr Nickel said that the American congress was considering tough measures to restrict economic links with South Africa including barring investment and banning the sale of Krugerrands in the United States. He said that sanctions aimed at forcing an end to apartheid would slow economic growth in South Africa, cut black employment, and reduce the chances of peaceful change.

DIE BEELD Criticizes Buthelezi for Rejecting Forum

MB211528 Johannesburg DIE BEELD in Afrikaans 19 Feb 85 p 12

[Editorial comment: "Thinking Anew"]

[Text] It is unfortunate that all politically established organizations in South Africa do not want to show the same vision and courage as the government about thoughts for the future. President Botha's proposed negotiating forum for all is being easily rejected by some.

Chief Buthelezi has already said it will be suicide for any black leader to participate in the process while his Inkatha has also weighed the merits and consequences and found them wanting. Regarding the latter, Inkatha finds itself in the company, not surprisingly, of the United Democratic Front and the Natal Indian Congress.

It is ironic that Chief Buthelezi, who speaks from a homelands platform, rejects the forum with such certainty. He manipulates the "system" to suit himself. What is really regrettable is that leaders and organizations do not avail themselves of the opportunity to negotiate.

The seriousness of the government in its approach is evidenced by P.W. Botha's offer last Friday to all organizations to renounce violence and become partners in negotiation. If the government, despite prejudice and apprehension by many voters and politicl risks, is prepared to indicate a new direction, isn't it time that others also begin to think anew?

Peace in South Africa demands it. Leaders should know that they cannot continue with expected negative reactions. Their stands and actions now can make the difference between continued strife and peace in the country.

Netherlands Ends Support for ANC's Radio Freedom

MB211207 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The Netherlands Government's decision to discontinue its support for the ANC's broadcasting section, Radio Freedom, will have little effect on the station's operations. A group of Netherlands workers in the media industry have formed a so-called solidarity group, Omroep, to assist Radio Freedom. The group is said to be exchanging information with the ANC that could be used in its propaganda broadcasts to South Africa. Radio Freedom still receives support from a number of broadcasting organizations in Africa, and four countries provide it with facilities to broadcast its programs.

ZIMBABWE

President Receives New Yugoslav Ambassador

MB211234 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Yugoslavia's new ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade Naum Ackovski, has presented his credentials to the president, Comrade Canaan Banana. Comrade Ackovski, whose last diplomatic post was in Libya, becomes his country's second ambassador to this country since independence.